

Enjoying a ripe melon can be as simple as cutting it open, scooping out the seeds and digging in. **Page 14**



Nanjing enjoyed its golden years under the Ming Dynasty, and there are numerous reminders of the period for visitors to stumble on. **Page 16**



"When woman are abused, society does not provide effective protection, but when they are forced to fight back, the law immediately punishes them." **Page 9**



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By Su Wei

Following an announcement last week by the Xicheng District government that the widening of Jiu Gulou Dajie is to be completely by the end of this year, a group of 19 scholars and journalists faxed a petition to the World Heritage Committee calling for the project to be halted.

The petition argues that as part of the surrounding area of the Forbidden City, which was listed as a World Heritage Site in 1987, Jiu Gulou Dajie, running south from Gulou Qiao on the North Second Ring Road, past the Bell and Drum towers to Gulou Xidajie, should be protected.

According to the Xicheng government's website, Jiu Gulou Dajie has a history extending back to the Yuan Dynasty in the 13th century.

A notice on the website says the demolition of houses along Jiu Gulou Dajie is part of the preparations for the widening of the street.

Jin Yao, director of the Xicheng District information office told *Beijing Today* that no detailed information about the project could be provided. "The project is too sensitive. It involves not only the demolition of houses, which is a basic concern of the public, but is also a cultural preservation issue," she said, "The information published on the website is what the district government has approved."

According to the notice on the website, the widening of the street is intended to relieve traffic pressure.

Zhang Guanghua, who has lived in the area all his life, believes the real purpose of widening the street is to develop the local economy. "But the development comes at the cost of the loss of culture, which suggests that the district government is too short-sighted."

Xu Pingfang, a member of the State Renowned Historical and Cultural Cities Preservation Committee and one of the 19 signatories of the petition, points out that "widening" in this context means the demolishing of the street. "The street today is the same width as that in the Yuan Dynasty, and so reflects the style and features of the Old City of the Yuan Dynasty," he told *Beijing Today*. "Once it's dimensions are changed, the atmosphere of old Beijing will be gone."

Xu believes the widening of Jiu Gulou Dajie is not consistent with the Beijing municipal government's pledge that the 2008 Olympic Games should be a people's Olympics. "The expansion is something brutal and backward, rather than civilized. What will the foreigners think when they come to Beijing finding nowhere to experience the unique, old Beijing, except for the Forbidden City and the Great Wall?"

Yang Dongping, professor of Beijing University of Science and Engineering, another of the 19 signatories, says it is meaningless to widen the street. "Once the street is widened, more cars will use it and the population density of this area will increase, resulting in more functions to be added to the city than the city can bear."

Charles Chauderlot, a French artist, who has lived in Beijing for seven years is concerned that one of his favorite subjects – a *siheyuan* (courtyard house) along Jiu Gulou Dajie, will soon be demolished, suffering the same fate as some of the *siheyuan* he painted around Nanchizi four years ago.

'It seems the more we seek to preserve, the more is removed.'

Knocking Down Memory Lane



In 1949 there were over 7,000 hutongs in Beijing, by the end of the 1980s, just 3,900 remained. In the past few years, they have been disappearing at a rate of 600 annually.



Demolition of houses along Jiu Gulou Dajie continues, despite opposition from scholars and experts.

Photos by Wang Yumeng

He points out that the expansion will damage the economy, the spirit and the culture of the area. "The increase in traffic the widened road will allow will deter people from crossing the street to go shopping. The road expansion means houses will be demolished, irrevocably changing people's lives," Chauderlot said. "The widening of Ping'an Dajie was a mistake, which has led to heavy traffic and sluggish business. I'm afraid that the expanded Jiu Gulou Dajie will become another Ping'an Dajie."

Chen Zhihua, professor at the Architecture College of Tsinghua University, told *Beijing Today*, "The crucial time has come. The expansion project is a disaster both for the culture of the Old City, and the culture of Beijing as a renowned historical city." Chen disagreed with the government's claim that the traditional style and features of the Old City could be regained after the project was completed, arguing that all the government could do is to rebuild and add something new, "Can the newly added be seen as the same as the original?"

Jin Yao said it was impossible for the government to express a point of view at present. "The government needs to reach an agreement on what to say and when to say it," she said.

Chauderlot suggested the gov-

ernment share some ideas with its European counterparts on how to protect the unique culture and organize the protection of the old cities.

He cited the Quartier Sainte Croix, a district with ancient buildings dating back to 12th century in Bordeaux, France, as an example. "Twenty years ago the old buildings were in very bad condition and too many people lived within the district," he recalled. "In order to protect the old buildings, the local government conducted studies on what kinds of buildings should be persevered and what kind of economic activities should be permitted in the district. Then people specializing in different fields, such as lawyers, architects, economists and students were invited to offer their solutions to protect the old buildings. Afterwards, the government made decisions targeted at every building in the district. That is, one building is one problem with one solution."

An official from the Beijing Cultural Relics Bureau, who requested anonymity, told *Beijing Today* the debate raised by the widening of Jiu Gulou Dajie reveals that the history and the culture of Beijing is not well understood and not given due respect. "Any plan for culture relic preservation should be made carefully to show the respect for

history, so conflicts between city development and cultural preservation will be avoided," he said.

But what most concerned Chen Zhihua is that the public was not informed by the Xicheng Government about the expansion until the demolition of the houses started. "The Plan of Preserving Beijing as Historical Cultural City regulates that the public should be informed about any project relating to culture relics," he said. "The project to expand the street cannot be regarded as a minor one, as the width of the street is to be at least doubled. The Culture Relics Preservation Law regulates that national cultural relics cannot be removed and if they are to be removed, the State Council must be informed. What about the government's policy of transparency? What about the rule of law?"

Wang Jun, a senior Xinhua reporter says the widening of Jiu Gulou Dajie is more than a social issue. "A street expansion must be accompanied by house removal, which underlines the cruelty of the society," he said. "Through the demolition of houses, government officials can claim a political achievement, as demolition needs capital investment, which in turn increases GDP, an indicator of the government's performance."

Chen Zhihua sighs in China the protection of culture relic is

still to protect the major or core part, which was a lesson learned by other countries around 100 years ago. "I cannot understand why China is the exception in spite of there having been such a world wide policy to develop the new city not in or on the old city but outside the old one," he said. "It seems the more we seek to preserve, the more is removed."

Yang Dongping says this time their proposal to stop the expansion is to challenge the government. "Although Mayor Wang Qishan said publicly last year that Beijing as a historical cultural city should be preserved as a whole, what the government does now is in complete contra-

diction to that. We are not sure if we can win this time. But we will try our best."

Wang Jun comments that the petition signed by the 19 underscores the fact that the awareness of being citizens of the country, rather than subjects of a feudal ruler, has grown and spread in the public. "Everyone has the right to protect his or her legal rights and has the obligation to correct wrongs. In this way, society will not be just for those with power and money, and it will not be a society in disorder."

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Free Personal Classifieds

Beijing Today is launching a free personal classifieds service. For sale and wanted ads, situations wanted and vacant, language exchange and personals, and rentals will be

printed free of charge. Email your personal classifieds (in English and Chinese) to info@ynet.com. Personal classifieds should conform to relevant laws and regulations.

Accountability System Trialed in Chongqing

By Chu Meng

China's first trial regulation for government official accountability was launched in Chongqing Municipality on July 1, the head of the municipality's law office Qi Wen confirmed Tuesday.

According to Qi, the regulation puts in place procedures and punishments for top government officials whose dereliction of duty jeopardizes the public interest. The regulation states that the public, judiciary organizations, the media and People's Congress delegates are entitled to demand accountability

by calling for an investigation.

The regulation also stipulates seven types of punishment, ranging from public apology to dismissal.

"The regulation is an indication of social progress, distinct from the collective decision-making system of the past," Qi told *Beijing Today*, "Collective decision making has been such a vague concept that it has been used as an excuse to shift accountability whenever something happens. When decisions are made collectively, nobody is pinned down as the responsible party."

The release of the new regulation comes amid a nationwide anti-corruption drive. In March, Premier Wen Jiabao put forward the idea that "power and responsibility cannot be separated," which has been deemed as the embodiment of the official accountability concept.

The Chongqing accountability system has been enacted in the wake of several major accidents in recent months. The former mayor of Jilin, Jilin Province, resigned after a fire in a shopping mall killed 51 people in mid February. The former general

manager of China National Petroleum, Ma Fucai, resigned after accepting responsibility for a gas well explosion in Chongqing that killed 243 people.

An official from Chongqing's Public Relations Bureau Di Yanjuan, told *Beijing Today* Tuesday, "As a move towards combating corruption and establishing efficient and responsible government, the insistence on accountability among public officials is a bright spark in the process of political reform in Chongqing, as well as throughout the country."

Beijing Seeks Hi-Tech Industrial Projects

By Chu Meng

Beijing has launched its first public recruitment of hi-tech industrial projects in a bid to promote the capital's development of modern manufacturing, according to an announcement by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform on Tuesday.

State-owned enterprises, private companies, as well as joint-ventures and non-governmental economic organizations are all qualified to declare hi-tech projects to the commission. The government will grant selected projects wide-ranging support in terms of favorable policies and capital backup.

According to Xie Jianhua, director-general of the commission's finance department, the move focuses on the fields of electronic information technology, automobile accessories production, biological engineering and new medication, especially highlighting the development of the software industry and electronic automobile industry.

"The move will further integrate the capital's industrial structure. It will help the shift of governmental and social investment from the current overheated real estate sector into the high-potential industries of hi-tech and modern manufacturing," Xie said.

The final selected hi-tech projects will be filed in the Beijing Regional Industrial Development Project Pool. Through the governmental-founded platform, they will be promoted regularly to both domestic and overseas investors. In addition, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform will provide support by offering risk investments and reductions on interest credit and loans.

Investment Sought for Urban Sewage Treatment

By Chu Meng

Over 60 percent of the China's cities lack urban sewage treatment plants due to lack of investment, despite the fact that urban sewage currently exceeds industrial waste as the country's biggest water polluter.

"The industry is starving for non-state capital," said Pan Yue, deputy director of the State Environmental Protection Administration, in an announcement released Tuesday.

Pan said that urban sewage reached 24.76 billion tons in 2003, accounting for 53.8 percent of the country's total waste water.

According to a standard set by the State Environmental Protection Commission in 2001, the sewage treatment rate must reach 45 percent on average and exceed 60 percent in cities with a population of over 500,000. However the government promised to collect 120 billion yuan (US \$14.5 billion) to achieve this plan, while the treatment rate lingered at a mere 22.3 percent in 2003.

The government is now encouraging the investment of private capital in the industry in the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) and Transfer-Operation-Transfer (TOT) models, and will provide favorable policies in taxation, land, electricity and credit guarantee. To guarantee investor's profits, the government will soon enforce an emission fee levying system throughout the country.

"The government is going to make standards on construction, operation and technology for industrial players. Furthermore, contractors of sewage treatment plant projects will only be chosen through public bidding," Pan added.

Foreign Invested Companies Prosper

By Chu Meng

Foreign-invested companies in Beijing have shown sharp increases in the main financial indexes to date this year, compared with the same period in previous years, according to figures released by the Beijing Statistics Bureau on Tuesday.

The statistics indicate that companies invested in secondary industries achieved the largest trade volume, while those invested in tertiary industries saw the largest revenue increases.

At the end of May, the total number of newly-opened foreign invested companies in Beijing was 5,656, with overall revenues of 150.38 billion yuan. This constitutes a 42.2 percent increase on the same period last year. These companies earned net profits of 15.75 billion yuan and saw a development rate of 51 percent.

Seventy percent of the world's top 50 retailers, including Wal Mart and Carrefour, have all established footholds in Beijing. In the wake of China's surging economic development, a growing number of foreign retail giants have increased their investment in Beijing's commercial sector.



Beijing's first motorcycle fire brigade was rehearsing in the hutongs around Dashilan, Xuanwu District on Tuesday. The narrow, zigzagging hutongs are too narrow for fire engines to pass through. Xinhua Photo

Regional Regulatory Agencies Break Electricity Monopoly

By Chu Meng

China has broken its traditional province-based electricity monopolies and established six regional regulatory agencies, Zhu Hongguang, an official from the State Electricity Regulatory Commission's Information Section told *Beijing Today* Wednesday.

The new agencies cover separately Northeast China, North China, East China, Central China, Northwest China and South China.

Zhu explained that in each regional organization, an electricity distribution and trading center will be established as a platform for both fair competition among electricity enterprises and administration by the government.

The scheme is widely seen as a major step to deepening reform in China's power sector, which has experienced serious problems this summer throughout the country.

Under the previous power dis-

tribution system, provincial barriers prohibited a free power market between provinces, as a province could only consume power generated within its territory.

Under the new scheme, power generating companies and distribution companies will gradually be allowed to conduct direct transactions with large electricity users from other provinces, according to an official announcement released by the commission early this month.

Higher Emissions Standards Adopted

By Chu Meng

A more demanding vehicle emissions regulation, equivalent to Europe's Euro II standards, went into effect last Thursday across China, in a bid to reduce vehicular emission pollution. The move is a further step in China's anti-pollution drive, according to the State Environmental Protection Administration.

The new standards will measure

the weight of pollutants and suspended particulate matter and will regulate a 30 percent cut in carbon monoxide and 55 percent cuts in hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxide compared to the old Euro I standard adopted in 2000, reported Friday's *China Daily*.

According to the tougher emissions standard, manufactured and imported vehicles that have been approved to only meet the Euro

I standards will have to end production or imports within a year. Sales of such vehicles must cease the following day.

Zhang Lijun, director-general of the Pollution Control Division of the Environmental Protection Administration stated in an interview with China daily, "the whole country will adopt Euro III standards in 2008, while Beijing will first adopt Euro III-equivalent standards as early as next year. The State Council has agreed to continue tax reductions for vehicles that meet Euro III standards ahead of time."

China has become the world's fourth largest automobile producer and third largest consumer of cars. The country produces 4.45 million automobiles a year and there are more than 24 million automobiles running across the country.

The administration says that while air quality in 70 percent of the country's cities is sub-standard, and vehicle emissions account for 79 percent of air pollution.

Emergent Notice Issued to Contain Bird Flu

The State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine issued an emergent notice Wednesday, requiring all localities to take measures to prevent the spread of bird flu.

The national bird flu reference laboratory confirmed Tuesday that the death of chickens at a poultry farm in east China's Anhui Province was caused by the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu virus.

No poultry or related products are allowed to be exported from Anhui Province, and local quarantine departments must monitor more closely the slaughtering and processing of poultry, and prevent poultry and related products from leaving bird flu-affected areas, according to the notice.

Strict measures must be taken to ensure the quality of those poultry products exported to Hong Kong and Macao, the notice says. (Xinhua)

UNDP-China Launch Cooperation Project

By Chu Meng

A new South-South Cooperation (SSC) project assisted by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) named Promoting SSC in the 21st Century was officially launched with a signing ceremony in Beijing Tuesday. The project aims to support China's efforts to encourage private and non-governmental enterprises to participate in multilateral economic cooperation among developing nations.

According to the program, China and the UNDP will jointly provide US \$1.6 million to a three-year project aimed at enhancing cooperation between China and Africa in the field of private and non-governmental economic development.

Wei Jianguo, vice minister of commerce stressed at the ceremony that the Chinese government has always attached great importance to SSC and considers it the cornerstone of the country's foreign policy and the mutual-benefit mutual-support basis of economic development.

UNDP supported SSC programs in China began when the UNDP first commenced operations in China in 1979. A total of US \$13.33 million had been spent or committed to SSC initiatives by the end of 2003, including the current project.

Europe Welcomes Chinese Tourists

By Chu Meng

Chinese travel agencies have won approval to organize tour groups to 27 European countries from September 1 this year, a spokesman for China National Tourism Administration's (CNTA) Information Office told *Beijing Today* Tuesday.

The 27 countries include Italy, France, Greece, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland. The move will enhance friendship and understanding between China and Europe as well as promote bilateral exchanges in economy, trade, science and culture, according to CNTA.

"Till now, travel agencies have only been allowed to organize Chinese tourists to visit 26 nations. The number will rise to 53 on September 1," the spokesman said, "In 2003, China's total foreign currency savings of residents topped US \$90 billion, which greatly stimulated overseas travels by Chinese."

A survey conducted by the World Tourism Organization shows that China is among the top 10 countries in terms of out-of-border tourism consumption. From 1994 to 2003, the total number of Chinese travelling abroad reached nearly 100 million, up almost 14 percent year-on-year. Last year, overseas Chinese tourists numbered 20.2 million.

Fake Diplomas of Government Officials Exposed

By Qiao Ying

According to a Xinhua report Sunday, the Ministry of Organization, the Ministry of Personnel, the Ministry of Education and the Degree Commission of the State Council have jointly issued a report calling for a check on government officials' diplomas.

Since the second half of 2002, some 670,000 officials working in every sector of party, government department, and state-owned enterprises have had their diploma or degree rechecked.

The report said that around 15,000 diplomas or degrees had problems ranging from minor mistakes to forgeries.

The report said that educational institutions are overflowing at present and some are of low quality. There is often a lack of effective management and monitoring of the issuing of such certificates. Furthermore, the authenticity of some diploma and degree certificates is difficult to verify.



Photo by Imaginechina

Domestic News Printers Win Dumping Case

By Sun Yongjian

Following the issuing of a government decision on June 30 resolving an eight-year old issue, domestic news print providers can look forward to collecting more anti-dumping duties from imported news print over the next five years, China News Net reported Sunday.

The domestic industry had filed dumping charges to combat massive imports of low-priced news print flowing in since 1995 from such countries as the US, Canada and South Korea, according to the report.

Nine major domestic paper providers entrusted the Beijing Huanzhong Law Office in March 1997 to submit an anti-dumping application to the then Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC), suggesting the launch of anti-dumping investigations.

The ministry took up the case in December that year and conducted checks on imported print. In its initial judgment issued in July 1998, MOFTEC decided news print imported from the US, Canada and South Korea had caused substantial harm to the domestic industry

and launched provisional anti-dumping measures against those countries.

The ministry's final judgment released 13 months later said dumping was rampant in the news print field. The State Economic and Trade Commission later recognized that low-priced imported news print had damaged the domestic industry and decided to collect duties on print imported from the aforementioned three countries from July 10, 1998 to July 9, 2003.

In March last year, the newly formed Ministry of Commerce

(MOC) continued the previous organization's anti-dumping investigations, in the end deciding on June 30 this year to keep collecting duties for another five years on the grounds that dumping and damage could continue if punishment was stopped.

Wu Jialin, vice chairman of the Board of Yueyang Forest & Paper Co. told *Beijing Youth Daily* last Friday that the final judgment was significant to protecting the healthy development of the domestic news print industry and upholding fair competition in the domestic market.



Chinese newspaper makers will be protected by five more years of anti-dumping duties on imported products. Photo by Photocom

Press JV Unveiled in Chongqing

By Sun Yongjian

After being marked off limits to foreign capital for decades, more flexible days seem to have arrived for the domestic press industry, as shown by the establishment of the country's first press joint venture in Chongqing on Tuesday, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported.

Chongqing Zhongkepu Computer Journal Operation Co. was set up with 30 million yuan in registered capital and

investment by Chongqing Zhongkepu Media Development Holding and Hong Kong-listed Tom.Com Group, with the approval of the State Press Office, on January 15 this year.

Wang Xian, CEO of Tom.Com was quoted in the report as saying that his company would hold a 49 percent stake in the venture and Chongqing Zhongkepu Media Development the remaining 51 percent.

Domestic Cosmetic Brands Swiped in HK

By Sun Yongjian

Trademarks for 13 domestic famous cosmetic brands, including Duo, Mininurse and Dabao, have been registered without authorization in Hong Kong, the Beijing-based Unitalen Attorneys at Law firm said in a report issued June 28.

Robert Li, head of UAAL's international department, told *Beijing Today* that company investigations revealed the

brand names were registered by the small, Hong Kong-based Chuangsheng Co.

"This was obviously done with malicious intent," Li said.

The registration could lead to significant losses to the actual owners of the 13 brands, forcing them to buy back the rights before releasing their products in Hong Kong.

More potentially serious was possible damage to the brands' reputations, Li warned.

France Telecom Sets Up Local R&D Center

By Wei Lixin

The grand opening of France Telecom's new Beijing-based research and development center, the company 16th such facility in the world and second in Asia, was held in Zhongguancun last Friday.

Herve Cayla, CEO of the center, called Zhongguancun an important core for high-tech development in China and the Raycom Info Tech Park, in which the new center is located, a hub within Zhongguancun.

France Telecom has signed a strategic cooperation deal with China Telecom

and the local center was intended to facilitate communication between the two sides, he noted.

Liu Xiangyang, director of the Haidian District Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Commission, said the district had established clear routes for cooperation with Singapore and similar deals were on the way with Hong Kong, France on Germany. Opening such routes should help small and medium sized domestic companies in Zhongguancun become competitive parts of the international market, Liu explained.

LG Tower Topped Off

By Fu Jia

A ceremony was held last Friday at the site of the LG Tower to celebrate the crowning of the new structures, followed by a formal reception at the Kerry Center Hotel for their official opening.

Nearly \$400 million was invested in the twin 30-story

buildings of LG Tower, which has a total floor area of 150,000 square meters in a prime location on Chang'an Avenue within the bustling Central Business District. The development, slated to contain modern office premises and a retail shopping mall, will be completed in August 2005.

FedEx Kicks Off GPRS Service in China

By Su Wei

FedEx Express, the world's largest express transportation company, announced the global launch of a new mobile communication technology for tracking packages in China last Friday.

Co-developed with Intermec Technologies, a leader in global supply chain solutions, the technology, based on general packet radio service (GPRS) is the first of its kind

to be adopted by the international express industry in China, FedEx said.

The system consists of palm-like wireless processors for couriers and both hardware and software for the handheld devices. The transceivers use GPRS to beam data from steps on shipment lines to FedEx information centers and could cut pick-up times by up to half an hour, according to a company press release.



FedEx expects its new tracking device to significantly cut delivery times.

Local Sludge Market Gets International Capital Injection

By Sun Yongjian

Foreign investor interest in sewage treatment projects in China received a big boost on Tuesday, when a domestic enterprise and a US-based investor signed a huge contract for establishing and running a joint venture waste water treatment facility, Xinhua reported Tuesday.

The joint venture, Blue Sea Action (Asia & Pacific) Investment Holding Group, was es-

tablished in Beijing on July 6 with an initial investment of 100 million yuan. The company is co-owned by American Asia & Pacific Investment Funds and Beijing Blue Sea Action Investment.

The Chinese side is in charge of negotiation and operation of project contracts, while the American side is responsible for attracting and providing construction funds, according to Xinhua.

Bank OK'd to Issue Subordinated Bonds

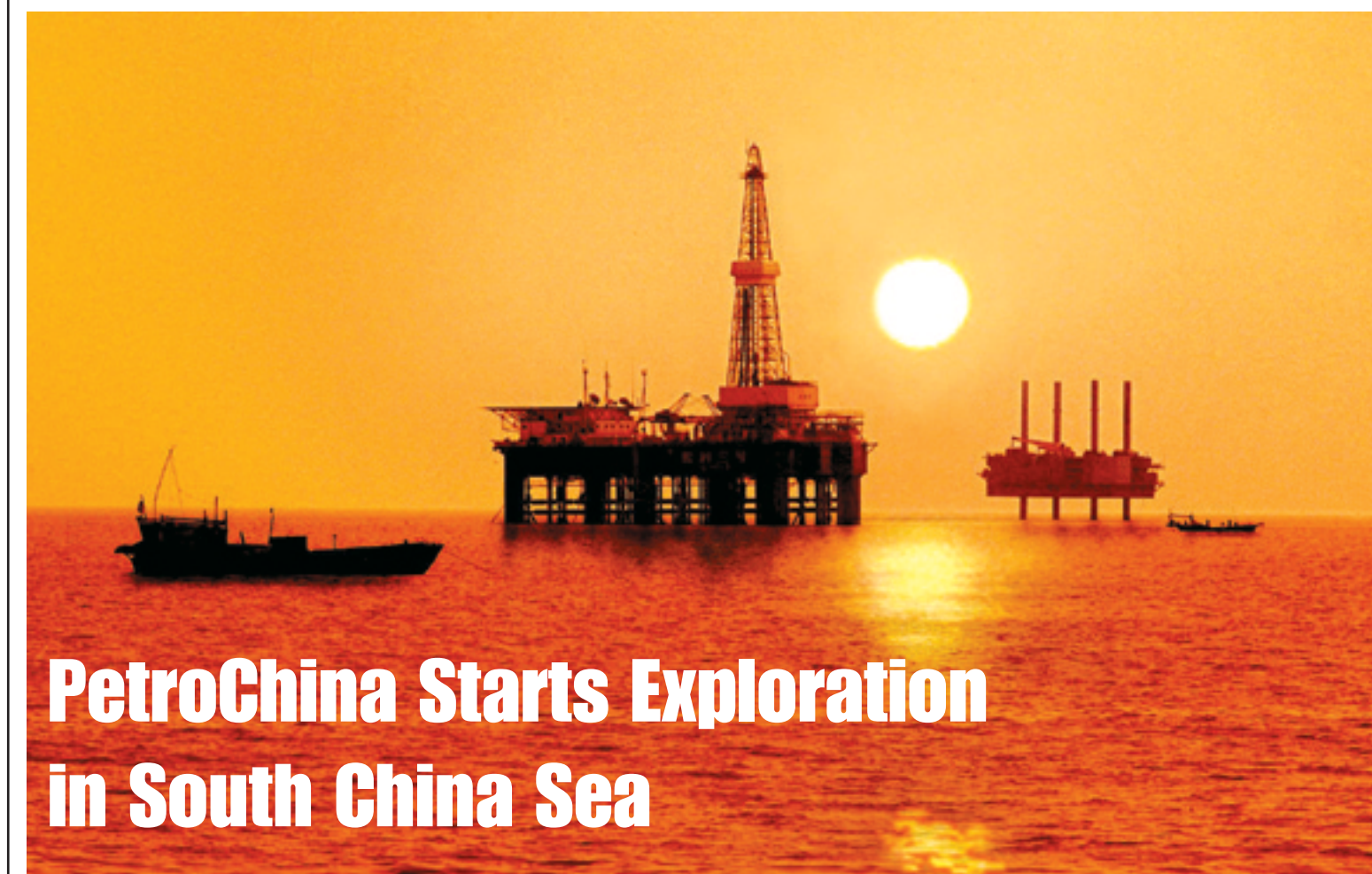
By Sun Yongjian

The Construction Bank of China will issue 40 billion yuan of subordinated bonds within this year in order to improve its capital adequacy ratio, *Shanghai Securities* reported on Monday.

The issue will be launched in different phases. In phase one, 10 billion yuan of AAA-ranked

bonds should be released before mid-July. Half that figure will be 10-year fixed interest rate bonds and half 10-year floating interest rate bonds.

The bank is expected to issue 40 billion yuan of subordinated bonds by the first half of 2005, with the aim of cutting its capital adequacy ratio to eight percent.



PetroChina Starts Exploration in South China Sea

One day after being given licenses to develop oil and gas reserves in the southern area of the South China Sea by the Ministry of Land and Resources, PetroChina, the nation's largest oil producer, commenced deep sea exploration in the region on June 7. In the past, the company had focused its exploratory efforts onshore and in shallow water, but now has the regulatory green light to tap resources more than five meters underwater.

Photo by Imaginechina

Airline Offers Passengers Delay Compensation

By Sun Yongjian

Being stranded in the airport became easier to take for passengers on Shenzhen Airlines last Sunday, when the company debuted a new policy offering customers on flights that end up being delayed compensation for their time - to the tune of as much as the full prices of their tickets.

Compensation would be provided in cases when flights were delayed due to some company failure, the company said, and repayments ranging from 20 percent to 100 percent of ticket value would be extended in situations of delayed luggage delivery.

The airline also debuted a new policy of providing accident insurance to passengers. Average passengers will receive policies worth up to 570,000 yuan, while airline mileage club members and other preferred clients can get policies valued as high as 1 million yuan or more.

The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) issued a notice last Tuesday demanding all domestic airline companies issue service commitments within one year for providing delay compensation to passengers with an aim of improving domestic airline punctuality.

Since that notice went out, other domestic airlines have started considering similar compensation packages, according to a report in Tuesday's *Beijing Youth Daily*.

A manager at China Eastern Airlines who would not provide his name told *Beijing Youth Daily* that passengers could expect pay back of up to or more than full ticket value for delays once the company issued its complete list of compensation criteria.

Yang Lihua, vice president of China International Airlines, said his company was setting delay compensation conditions and was likely to start by offering stranded passengers flight coupons.

Gome Adds Entertainment Links to Retail Chain

By Chu Meng

China's largest home appliance retailer, Gome Home Appliance Corp, plans to expand into the domestic audio-visual products market with the goal of becoming the largest Chinese mainland retailer of entertainment products within five years.

The news broke last Friday with an announcement by Hua Tian, director of the company's marketing department.

The first set of eight stores opened last Friday in seven domestic cities, including Shanghai, Chongqing, Tianjin and Shenzhen. Gome has announced that its plans call for opening 200 main stores across the country by the end of the year and establishing a network of 5,000 retail outlets selling audio-visual products, such as music compact disks and DVD movies, in China over the next five years at a total cost of 500 million yuan (\$60.24 million).

Low-tech Mobile Phones Face Oblivion

By Chu Meng

In response to sharp drops in sales and shrinking profits, Beijing's major mobile phone dealers could eliminate black-and-white screen mobile phones from their showrooms, a manager from Suning Appliance Group's marketing department told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday on condition of anonymity.

"From now on, we are not going to sign any contract with manufacturers for black-and-white mobile phones. Suning plans to end sales of such phones after clearing existing stockpiles," Suning General Manager Fan Zhijun was quoted as saying in an interview with the Xinhua News Agency last Friday.

Sources from other major mobile phone retailers such as Dazhong and Gome explained the key to the decision to elimi-

"There is huge potential in the mainland market for digital and audio-visual products as demand rises for home entertainment products. Sales of audio-visual products totaled around 30 billion yuan in China in 2003 and the market is expected to expand 30 percent annually in coming years," Li Junta, general manager of Gome's new subsidiary, Gome Audio-Video Corp, was quoted as saying in a Xinhua report from June 28.

That company is now talking with around 50 domestic audio-visual publishing houses about cooperation, seeking to sell products at 20 to 30 percent less than competitors by ordering in great volume directly from publishers, according to Li. These publishing houses, which have suffered severely from the rampant piracy in this country, would also benefit from the low-price marketing principle, he said.

nate the low-tech phones was thin profit margins. Black-and-white phones have under-10-percent shares of market, falling far behind newer models with color screens and digital cameras, the sources said, noting that a few simple models still sold well.

The emergence of digital camera mobile phones has pushed the prices of basic color-screen phones down by as much as 30 percent, translating to some models bearing price tags of under 1,000 yuan, Xinhua said.

"We want to see big foreign brands continue to cut their prices, which will force the prices of domestically-made color-screen mobile phone to drop. More competitive pricing should only expand the market potential for such phones," Fan said.

Shell Self-flagellates

Washington, July 3 (AP) - The Royal Dutch/Shell Group said yesterday that the overstatement of its proven oil and gas reserves resulted in profits being exaggerated by \$276 million, and that "inappropriate" accounting in other areas resulted in profits being embellished by an additional \$156 million.

The revision comes after an embarrassing series of disclosures that in total reduced the company's reported reserves by nearly a quarter and led to the departure of several top executives.

The biggest downward revision was for 2002, when the faulty accounting resulted in profits being overstated by \$208 million. In 2001, the reduction was \$56 million; in 2000, it was \$122 million. Prior to 2000, it

was \$46 million.

The company disclosed the overstated profits in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission late Friday, explaining that in addition to the problematic reserves accounting it had also made errors in the way it accounted for exploration costs, certain gas contracts and the earnings per share of its parent companies.

However, because of a change announced yesterday in the way RoyalDutch/Shell will now account for its inventories of oil and gas, the energy giant said its net income for 2002 was actually higher than previously reported at \$9.72 billion, up from \$9.42 billion it reported in February 2003.

The accounting overhaul caused

Royal/Dutch Shell's 2001 net income to drop to \$10.35 billion, down from \$10.85 billion it reported in February 2002, while its 2000 net income increased slightly to \$12.87 billion, up from \$12.7 billion reported in early 2001.

In a string of four restatements that started in January, Shell downgraded its proven reserves by 4.47 billion barrels, or 23 percent.

Proven reserves are the amount of oil and gas a company expects to commercially pump to the surface. They are a crucial measure for investors of an oil company's performance and future value.

The reserves overstatement led to the resignations of the chairman, Sir Philip B. Watts; the head of exploration and production, Walter van de

Vijver; and the chief financial officer, Judy Boynton. It also drew the attention of regulators in the United States and Europe.

On Monday, the leaders of Royal Dutch/Shell asked shareholders for forgiveness and time to revamp the Anglo-Dutch company.

Shell has an unusual, binational structure in which the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company of the Netherlands controls 60 percent of the group and Britain's Shell Transport and Trading Company holds the remaining 40 percent.

Investors and analysts alike have blamed this cumbersome structure for the breakdown in governance that led to significant overstatements of the company's oil and gas reserves.

Europe's Energy Markets Unbound

Brussels July 1 (Economist) - "FREE Gulliver!" declared Philippe de Buck at a recent gathering of European regulators, utility bosses and others involved in energy liberalisation. The secretary-general of the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe urged them to "take their hands off the management of the energy business" and added, "Don't turn back the process of deregulation." Only thus, he argued, will Gulliver be liberated from the thousands of "Lilliputian rules and restrictions that bind him". His timing was curious, to say the least, for July 1 marked a crucial step in the emergence of the EU as the world's most liberalised large energy market.

The conference that Mr de Buck addressed, in Lyon, France, celebrated the latest advance in the decade-long process of European Union (EU) energy liberalisation. The first big threshold was passed in 1999, when some large firms were allowed to choose their power suppliers. Since July 1, two-thirds of all customers in Europe have had that right, at least on paper. By 2007, every European will.

So why, given all this progress, did Mr de Buck strike such a cautionary note? Certainly, there is a chance, albeit small, that the reforms will even now be derailed. Perhaps the growing public backlash against blackouts will prompt political action. Last summer's blackouts from England to Italy led some politicians to call for more state intervention to ensure "security of supply". Loyola de Palacio, the EU's Energy Commissioner, rejects that link: "The blackouts in Europe last year

cannot be blamed on the market-opening process."

A more serious worry, that might lead to a rethink, is that deregulation would undermine incentives to make essential investment in new generation and transmission. Fatih Birol, chief economist at the International Energy Agency, estimates that 40% of western Europe's coal plants will need to be replaced by 2015.

Analyst's Take:

It is an event of great significance, showing that the EU energy market liberalization process has moved to a new phase. The demand-side will meet the supply-side face to face, so prices can reflect market changes.

Will the completely open and liberalized energy market lead to dominance by several private electric multinationals? I believe that the EU will constitute relevant principles to avoid such a problem. However, the liberalization is likely to bring on the problem of abating of government control over energy, and electrical safety may be affected.

As to the ongoing revolution in China's electric power sector, loosening control may be applied to power generation, while in some non-competitive sectors such as electrical networks, supervision should be strengthened so as to ensure electrical safety for the country. The EU experience has little use for direct reference for China, because the extent of opening is different, and the growth mode is different too.

- Li Ying, Deputy Chief Economist from the State Power Economic Research Center.

(Wei Lixin)



The Town Hall and statue in the marketplace of Bremen in northwest Germany were newly inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List on July 6 during the 28th session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee held in Suzhou, Jiangsu. They are outstanding representations of the civic and trading rights that developed in the Holy Roman Empire in Europe.

Xinhua Photo

Capital on the Move

Seoul, June 5 (Reuters) - The rural county of Yongi in central South Korea was tapped on Monday as the most likely future seat of government under a controversial \$45 billion plan to move the country's capital away from congested Seoul.

President Roh Moo-hyun made relocating the capital to the center of the country a key pledge in his election campaign. The project - set to begin in 2007 and be completed in 2030 - was approved by parliament last year.

Officials of Seoul, a city of 10.3 million people that has been a Korean capital since the 14th century, have criticized the plan as wasteful and ill considered. Last week, more than 10,000 people gathered at City Hall to protest over the relocation.

Roh and other proponents say relocating the capital, a plan first hatched four decades ago, will alleviate overcrowding in Seoul, reduce its stranglehold on the economy and ease regional rivalries.

Seoul - which means "capital" in Korean - is also the cultural, educational, business and financial capital of South Korea, a country the size of Belgium or Pennsylvania with a population of 48 million people.

Yongi, about 80 km southeast of Seoul, won the highest marks among four candidates evaluated by the

Presidential Committee on Administrative Capital Relocation.

Although the final decision will come in August, Yongi - situated at the confluence of two rivers in lush rice-growing country - bested nearby contender Nonsan by such a large margin that it is assured of winning, officials and analysts said.

Analyst's Take:

The relocation would include moving key administrative and legislative bodies to Yongi to alleviate overcrowding in Seoul.

The population density of Seoul is 17,000 per square kilometer, ranking among the most crowded areas in the world. Dense population has both advantages and disadvantages for economic development.

Population density can offer healthy economic growth, thanks to a ready market and plentiful labor supply. At present, Seoul's GNP accounts for about a fifth of that of all South Korea.

Meanwhile, air pollution, deterioration of water quality and garbage disposal are the three main disadvantages facing Seoul's economic development.

I don't agree with the analysis that the relocation will balance regional development in South Korea since



The overcrowded capital of South Korea, Seoul.

Photo by Photocom

Yongi is only about 80 km southeast of Seoul, about the same distance from Beijing to Tianjin in China. What's more, the relocation will move administrative and legislative bodies both the economic center will still be Seoul; it is also the financial center as well as the logistical center of Korea. Even if the administrative capital is relocated, the economic status of Seoul won't be replaced; the basic economic structure of South Korea won't be changed greatly, either.

Furthermore, the safety factor is

of great significance. Panmunjom is to the north of Seoul, just 50 kilometers away. Moving the capital to the central part of the country would strengthen the safety factor.

The reason why so many Koreans object to the relocation is that they consider the move too costly.

Jia Baoguo, Director of the Faculty of Asian Economics of the University of International Business and Economics.

- The overcrowded capital of South Korea, Seoul.

(Wei Lixin)

Khodorkovsky Offers Shareholding

Moscow, July 6 (Financial Times) - Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the imprisoned Russian tycoon, has offered to surrender all his shares in Yukos to prevent the authorities driving the embattled oil group into bankruptcy, people close to the discussions have said.

Executives at Yukos on Tuesday sent a fresh rescue proposal to the government, with Mr Khodorkovsky's approval, suggesting a global settlement for its escalating tax debts in exchange for handing over all or some of the controlling shareholders' stake.

Mr Khodorkovsky would be willing to give some or all of the 44 per cent stake in Yukos, which he holds with his partners, to the company.

Yukos would then either hand the shares directly to the authorities or sell them and provide the cash in part settlement of current and future tax claims.

In exchange, Yukos is seeking the lifting of a court order freezing its bank accounts and the sale of its assets, and three years during which to restructure and fully settle the tax debts, which it estimates are likely to total \$7-\$8bn.

HK Government Launches Bond Issue

Hong Kong, June 6 (Financial Times) - Hong Kong will start marketing an HK\$20bn bond on Wednesday, its first government issue for more than a decade and the first to include a foreign currency component.

The offering is meant to help Hong Kong develop a local bond market and comes as the territory tries to reduce a budget deficit forecast to reach HK\$42.6bn (US\$5.5bn) in the year to next March.

The bond, which includes US dollar and Hong Kong dollar-denominated tranches, is expected to attract strong demand because of its scarcity value and Hong Kong's strong credit rating.

Observers said international and Asian investors were likely to buy despite the volatility in international bond markets since last week's US interest rate rise.

Boeing Announces Big Orders

London, July 7 (AFP) - Boeing announced the first European customers for its super-efficient 7E7 Dreamliner jet with provisional orders for 10 planes, giving the US aerospace giant a vital boost in its efforts to regain the number one spot from arch-rival Airbus.

First Choice, one of Britain's biggest package holiday operators, has signed a letter of intent to take delivery of six 7E7s, with the first delivery targeted for 2009, Boeing announced at a press conference in London on Wednesday.

Italian charter airline Blue Panorama has meanwhile signed a letter of intent to buy four aircraft.

Together the two orders are worth 1.2 billion dollars (970 million euros) based on catalogue prices, though airlines usually negotiate discounts.

"Today's announcements are ringing endorsements of the 7E7's broad appeal across a spectrum of airlines," said Marlin Dailey, vice president of sales for Europe at Boeing Commercial Airplanes.

"We're going to see airlines of all sizes and all types of business models step up and commit to the 7E7," he told reporters.

EU Caps Restructuring Aid

Brussels, July 7 (AFP) - The European Commission has issued new guidelines on state-backed restructuring plans saying that large companies must pay for at least half their own restructuring costs, with state aid in such cases capped at 50 percent.

According to the new guidelines, the amount of aid allowed would depend on the size of the company concerned. Large companies would pay 50 percent, medium-sized companies will have to carry 40 percent of the costs, and small companies around 25 percent.

"This can be achieved either by using funds they obtained by selling assets that are not essential to the firm's survival, or from external financing obtained at market conditions," said the commission.

The new guidelines also include a 10-year "standstill period" during which a government cannot give the company any further aid.

The changes update guidelines set last in 1999 and are to take effect in October.

Libya Buys in Niger

Tripoli, June 4 (AFP) - Libya's state-owned Tam Oil Co. has bought the Niger unit of US oil major ExxonMobil Corp. in the first such deal following an end to US sanctions on Tripoli, a Tam executive revealed.

Exxon Mobil in Niger operates a network of service stations, as well as having a contract to provide 50 percent of the fuel at the airport in the capital, Niamey, and all of the fuel sold at the Agades airport.

The United States and Libya formally re-established direct diplomatic relations on June 28, after a 24-year break.

Three months earlier, President George W. Bush eased many US economic sanctions on Libya and promised to deepen diplomatic ties to reward Tripoli for giving up its quest for weapons of mass destruction.



Maria Sharapova



Serena Williams

China Open Could Be Stage for Wimbledon Rematch

By Sun Ming

New Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova and Serena Williams, the top women's player in the world and Wimbledon runner-up, will be among the stars of the China Open tennis tournament scheduled to be held in Beijing next month.

News of the latest players to join the tournament was announced by the China Open Organizing Committee on Wednesday.

"The China Open aims to become one of the world's top five tennis tournaments, Asia's premier sports event and the leading event in China's and Beijing's preparations for the 2008 Olympic Games," said Zhang Xiaoning, vice chairman and secretary general of the China Open Organizing Committee.

The China Open, organized under the leadership of China's Ministry of Sports and the Beijing Municipal Government, will be an official event in the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) and WTA (Women's Tennis Association) tours, according to the organizing committee.

Other stars among the more than 300 professionals that have signed up are top ATP players Marat Safin, David Nalbandian and Rainer Schuettler.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for tennis fans to watch the best tennis players in the world right here in Beijing," said Zhang Yanping, publisher of Beijing Youth Daily and vice chairman of the China Open Organizing Committee.

Prize money for the China Open's ATP event will total \$550,000 and the WTA side will total \$500,000.

Peter Picked a Pricey Parking Spot

By Zhou Ying / Zhang Shuxi

A recent trip to the Great Wall proved an eye-opener for a foreign man, not only because of the grandeur of the ancient monument, but more by the gall of local people who tried to charge him 200 yuan for simply parking his car.

The man, a manager at a German carmaker working in China and identified only as Peter, told *Beijing Youth Daily* last Saturday, "I never expected they would charge me so much."

After parking at the foot of the "wild" Great Wall near Huanhua village in Huairou County on June 27, Peter took off for a hike with his wife. They returned



Photo by Zhang Shuxi

to find their car surrounded by nearly a dozen locals.

"At first, I thought they just wanted 2 yuan from their gestures," he recalled. Then he realized that they were after a staggering 200 yuan.

Peter tried to bargain the insistent villagers down, but to no avail, and finally had to call his Chinese secretary for help.

"But they mistook that I was calling the police, and threatened to hit us with stones. I had no choice but to hang up the phone," he said.

Finally, after a long stalemate, the villagers agreed to a compromise fee of 10 yuan.

"I don't want to get any kind of forceful settlement to this issue, I just want to alert other people to the problem of rampant overcharging," Peter said.

New traffic laws issued by the municipal government on May 1 stipulate the standardized charge for parking beyond the Fourth Ring Road should be 0.5 yuan per half hour, but many tourist sites in rural areas continue to charge far more.

Ancient Oracle Bones Fetch Fortune

By Wang Fang

A Chinese man forked out a total of 52.8 million yuan at an auction in Shanghai last Sunday for 20 pieces of tortoise bone.

No mere shells, the precious pieces are oracle bones, carved with ancient pictographic characters and used for divination during the Shang Dynasty nearly 3,000 years ago. The rare artifacts have been unearthed, mostly in Henan Province, over the past roughly 150 years.

Those bought Sunday were discovered among the ruins of

a Shang-era tomb in Anyang, Henan.

Liu Xinhui, who supervised the sale for organizer Shanghai Chongyuan Auction Co., told the assembled audience that it was the first time oracle bones had ever been sold in the world, and set the starting price at 5.8 million yuan. Heated bidding ensued, charging forward to a final price of 48 million yuan.

The total price of nearly 53 million yuan includes all related fees.

Zhou Hongxiang, an expert

on oracle bones at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), said the high price should help more people in China understand the true value of the ancient pieces and the culture from which they came.

The 20 light yellow tortoise bones, the largest the size of a man's hand, the smallest only as a big as a little finger, are carved with over 150 pictographic characters. Chinese law stipulates that oracle bones must stay in China and even if purchased cannot be taken outside national borders.



The bones' inscriptions describe agriculture and economics in the ancient Shang Dynasty. Photo by Photocom

Climbing Accident Claims Student's Life

By Jiang Lin

Students at Tsinghua University held a memorial on campus Monday for classmate Huang De, who died in a climbing accident on Laowang Mountain in Guizhou Province last Saturday.

Huang was a junior in the university's environmental studies department and called optimistic and generous by his classmates, the *Beijing News* reported Tuesday.

The event echoed an earlier tragedy in which five students from Peking University's Sh-

anyang Association, a mountain climbing organization, died during an expedition in Tibet two years ago.

Huang was on the mountain as a part of a joint expedition of Peking and Tsinghua universities' climbing teams, partly organized by the government of nearby Liupanshui town and aimed at finding the graves of a princess of the ancient Yelang Kingdom, the *Beijing News* said.

While searching for the graves, Huang and classmates

Wang Rongtao and Zhang Weihua strode near a sheer cliff on the mountain around 11 am on Saturday. The ground under Huang's feet collapsed and he plunged off the cliff.

"It was so unexpected, so sudden. No one on the climbing team thought something like this could happen, and neither did we," said Zhu Lijin, an employee of the tourism bureau of Liuzhi town, which organized the climb in conjunction with the Liupanshui government and a local TV

station in hopes of shining some light on the mountain as a potential tourism site.

It remains unclear whether the Liupanshui government will provide Huang's parents with some kind of monetary compensation for the loss of their son. The *Beijing News* reported Wednesday that local authorities had included safety insurance in their deal signed with Wang Rongtao, but Wang himself told the *Beijing Morning Post* the same day that insurance was not part of the package.



Photo by Bai Zhoufeng

US Pilgrims Flock to Shaolin Temple

By Zhou Ying

Famed Shaolin Temple in Henan Province was overrun last Wednesday by nearly 300 enthusiastic students and instructors from the United Studios of Self Defense, the US' largest martial arts organization.

The students also held a ceremony for the dedication of the

USSD Shaolin Temple Monument in front of one of the ancient complex's 36 chambers.

"Shaolin kung fu is one of most valuable treasures left by the temple's previous senior grandmasters and monks and a principal part of Chinese traditional culture," Shi Yongxin, head abbot of the temple, was quoted as say-

ing last Thursday in the Henan-based *Dahe Daily* newspaper.

Shi added that the American activity not only indicated the USSD students' great respect for Shaolin, it also served to enhance Sino-US relations.

After the ceremony, the American guests enjoyed a spectacular show of Shaolin martial arts

by some of the temple's monks. "It was so cool, I don't know the words to describe it," one of the pilgrims, a Mr. Derle, gushed to *Dahe Daily*.

All the students spent two days training their martial skills under the instruction of real Shaolin monks and left Saturday morning, Shi said.



Photo by Photocom

Carnie Comes to Town

By Wu Chen

Summer fun, American style, has hit the Chinese capital since last Friday's opening of the World Carnival on the grounds of the Beijing International Sculpture Park in Wukesong, Haidian District.

Despite heavy showers, many people turned out last weekend to check out the rides, food and motley crowd at the carnies.

The ticket price of 50 yuan includes 10 coins for use in carnival games, with more coins for sale once visitors burn through the freebies.

Fearing possible rushes on the park, authorities have set up visitor counting and monitoring systems at all carnival entrances and exits, and gates are set to shut if the grounds contain over 120,000 people at one time, according to a *China Daily* report from last Saturday.

The stars of the event are the more than 50 rides, which include the world's biggest Ferris wheel, an unusual double-decker merry-go-round, and a dizzying "G-Force" ride with long, spinning arms that accelerate from 0 to 160 kilometers an hour in just 4.5 seconds.

The sprawling carnival grounds also contain dozens of stalls with games of skill and all manner of international edibles. The carnival has formed a partnership with Beijing McDonald's Food Co. for the provision of food and drink, as well as special seating and shading facilities and a lucky draw.

Carnival tickets are being sold at all 83 McDonald's outlets in Beijing.

This session, which runs through August 22, is the World Carnival's second China appearance following a stint in Shanghai last summer.

Restaurants Move to Cork Drunk Driving

By Wu Chen

The capital launched a new campaign against drunk driving Tuesday when 300,000 posters reminding people not to get behind the wheel under the influence of alcohol were hung on the walls of restaurants all over the city.

The posters were printed by the Beijing Transportation Bureau, which has also designated certain local waiters as anti-drunk driving supervisors, responsible for pressing customers drinking with their meals not to drive afterwards.

Of the 564 people killed in traffic accidents in Beijing between January and May this year, 43 were victims of drunk drivers, 22 more than in the same period of last year, according to the bureau.

The new Law on Road Traffic Safety, which took effect May 1, clearly states driving under the influence of alcohol is illegal and a punishable offense.

On May 8, famed cross-talk performer Niu Zhenhua died in a car accident in Beijing when he steered into a truck. Police later confirmed he was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the fatal crash.

I Want My Child!

By Zhou Ying

Every year, couples everywhere try to conceive a child. Unfortunately, many find that they cannot. The process of finding out why and what to do about it can be long and arduous.

According to a report in *Guangzhou Daily* last Thursday, Wang Xia and her husband were a young couple from Guangzhou who had been unable to conceive for five years because Wang had blocked fallopian tubes. Having gone from doctor to doctor for help to no avail, they decided to undertake in-vitro fertilization at Guandong Women and Children's Hospital and Health Institute in 2003.

"After discovering that we had to pay more than 10,000 yuan for the operation, we had saved on food and clothes for almost one year. Finally, we could afford to undertake the operation in February this year," Wang Xia recalled to *Guangzhou Daily* last Thursday. "Unfortunately, the first fertilized egg failed to be replaced back into my womb, so

we had to start again."

She said that she and her husband did not lose hope. They simply waited for the next operation a few months later. However, tragedy struck just a few days before the second operation was due, when Wang's husband was killed in a car accident.

Wang decided she wanted to continue the procedure to make her husband's dream come true. However, the hospital refused her request. According to a law released by China's Ministry of Health in 2001, it is forbidden to offer Assisted Reproductive Technology for single women. Following her husband's death, the local hospital regarded Wang as a single woman.

Wang Xia told *Guangzhou Daily* that she could not give up this opportunity to have a baby. Some people back Wang's decision. They believe that it is unreasonable and unmerciful to stop her from having a child. Others say the government is just trying to restrict the growth of China's already huge population. Ms.



A doctor is putting sperm into the tube for in-vitro fertilization

Photo by Photocore

Luo, the deputy of Guangdong Women and Children's Hospital and Health Institute told *Beijing Today* that after the report in *Guangzhou Daily*, the hospital had been placed under great pressure.

Yi Yanhong, Deputy Director of Guangdong Women and Children's Hospital and Health Institute

Recently, there has been a strict policy in China to control the appliance of Assisted Reproductive Technology, because there are many other aspects involved, such as complicated ethical problems. Technically, Wang Xia can realize her conception, according to her healthy condition. However, she became a single woman after the death of her husband. We, of course, cannot

do the operation because of the law. But because of the particular nature of her case, we can report it to China's Ministry of Health, and try our best to get permission.

Jian Zhengde, a lawyer from Guangzhou Sheng Bang Law Office

We cannot blame the hospital for its refusal to continue with the operation, because they made their decision according to the law.

I think it is necessary for China to set up this regulation, because it could have a significant effect on society if hospitals could just apply Assisted Reproductive Technology at will. Furthermore, if a child lives without his or her father, he or she may have an unhappy life. It may bring about much more ethical problems and legal problems, such as the confirmation of child's status and identity, and the right to foster the child.

However, to stop the operation does not mean that Wang's right to give birth to a child has been violated. There are two ways for her to have children. One is that she can get married again, so she will have another chance to have a test-tube baby. The other way is that she can adopt a child to make her dream come true.

Ralph Jennings, a journalist from Kyodo News

I'm not sure what most Western countries do, but in most of the United States women can have test tube babies without being married. Because this choice indicates that the woman is committed to parenthood (as opposed to having a child by accident), American society by and large supports it.

Yes, the law in China seems unusually harsh. It's bad enough that this woman lost her husband in a car wreck, and worse that the nation won't let her add another precious family member by having a baby. But I'm not completely surprised. I've heard about students rejected from college study because they are not tall enough, because they're partly deaf or other matters of physique, or because they get pregnant while in school.

I respect conservative values, but lawmakers should be practical too.

Zhang Shan, a producer from China Central Television

In my opinion, Wang cannot realize her dream, unless she gets permission from the government. But of course, getting married again is an option.

From a humanitarian perspective, I think Wang should have the right to have her own baby. But I can understand the law, because if more people do this, there will be other problems, such as conception outside marriage. Such problems

may create a new burden for the country, and may go against the marriage system. After all, the population of China is over 1.3 billion.

Zhu Siran, a translator for CCTV Economics Channel

I personally can understand Ms. Wang's decision to continue the operation. However, I am afraid that I cannot agree with it.

Firstly, after the death of her husband, I am sure that Ms. Wang may suffer a lot mentally, and the bad news surely will have had influence upon her health. Therefore I think maybe it can do harm to herself and her baby if she is pregnant.

Secondly, we can see that Ms. Wang's family is not that rich, especially after losing her husband, the main breadwinner in her family. I just wonder how she could afford the surgery fee, and how she could raise the child on her own. I am afraid that financial problems may have a bad impact on the growth of her baby.

Thirdly, I think most children coming from single parent families suffer in their character or mentality. I mean they may have unhealthy psychology. It is hard for a child to grow healthily in such circumstances.

Therefore, I cannot agree with Ms. Wang. I think she made this decision on impulse, not taking every factor into consideration.

Zhang Jun, a doctor from Beijing Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital

Viewing this matter ethically, I think we cannot agree with Wang's decision, because it goes against China's Planned Parenthood policy. As doctors, we conduct operations only according to the law. If we violate laws, we should shoulder the responsibility. But I personally think the request made by Wang is reasonable and understandable.

Taking surrogacy for example, it is quite common in foreign countries for a couple to find a surrogate mother to be pregnant if the wife cannot give birth to a child. Surrogate births are usually achieved through in-vitro procedures. However, in our country, it is strictly forbidden to have such operations. Some people may think it is inhuman to prohibit surrogacy, and see it as a violation of women's right to be a mother.

However, I personally believe that it is necessary to have a law prohibiting it. Regulations are a result of harmony from all aspects. Surrogacy and test-tube babies are matters involving many other problems, such as ethical problems. It is really complicated to handle these problems if the government does not place restrictions on the use of Assisted Reproductive Technology.

By Dong Nan

A program called "Building An Honest Government" produced by the local TV station of Hengshan, a small town in Hunan Province, made headlines around the country after it uncovered rather more than expected.

On the program, which was broadcast every evening from April 1 to May 9 on Hengshan TV, around 40 top officials of the town talked about their determination and measures to guard against corruption.

For the first time, the officials were asked about things like the monthly income of their families, what cars they drive, where their spouses work, where their children go to school, and even which brand of cigarettes they smoke.

The program was designed and organized by the Discipline and Supervision Committee of Hengshan. CCTV interviewed Wen Wuqing, vice secretary of the committee.

"People are interested in those details of officials' lives, such as whether they arranged for their spouses and children to get high positions or whether they live luxuriously," said Wen, "and corruption can easily happen in these areas."

He also told CCTV that after the program was broadcast, two officials were reported as being corrupt by local people, and the committee is now investigating.

Some of those officials told CCTV that it was fine to have their private life opened to the public, while others were less happy and said it was a violation of their privacy.

Wen Wuqing, vice secretary of the Discipline and Supervision Committee, Hengshan

We made the program to try to combine supervision from the media, people and administrative departments. I believe people have the right to know more about our officials. This is not just some kind of publicity stunt. If people think that those officials were lying on TV, they can tell us, and if we do not respond, they can complain about us to superior administration departments.

Wang Xinguo, President of the Finance Bureau, Hengshan, who was interviewed by Hengshan TV on April 19

I could talk about my private life freely on TV, since I had nothing to hide. However, to be frank, I was not that willing to do so. If our officials held such a meeting, I would be more willing to talk about my life. But I really

Officials in the TV Hotseat



The program "Building An Honest Government"



Kang Juliang, President of the Transportation Bureau, Hengshan, during his interview (From Hengshan TV)



Wen Wuqing, designer of the program

felt embarrassed to talk about it on TV and to the public, and people might think that you were not telling the truth.

Dong Weigang, a retired engineer

I think this kind of program can not have much practical effect. If those officials are honest, they would not be afraid of talking about their life, and it would be useless for people to know those things. If they are corrupt, how could anyone expect them to tell the truth?

Li Peide, a retired official

I know in some foreign countries, as a measure of preventing corruption, officials must reveal their incomes and salaries. However, in China, other than salary and allowances, many officials have undeclared incomes. Some are legal, some are illegal, and some take advantage of the law and policies. It is hard to be defined even by professional supervision and auditing departments; how can we expect such a program to reveal real and serious corruption. The program is childish.

Zhang Guoqing, president of the School of Public Administration, Peking University

We know that there is a lot of bluffing in the apparent course of fighting against corruption in China. But I think this program is a genuine attempt. Maybe people can tell if those officials are hiding something. Anyway, fac-

ing the camera, they are sure to feel a certain kind of pressure.

Gao, an official of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China

It is a tendency for officials to publicize some of their private things such as their income, and they have the responsibility to do so. However, doing that properly is a problem in China. I think it requires a more formal method, following a legal process. Maybe this kind of TV program is needed, but it should not be the only method.

Liu Yuyu, middle school student

I think the program is good, but it is not enough. It would be better to make it a kind of hotline program, so people can ask the officials questions directly. And if the TV station strapped a lie detector on the officials, the effect would be even better.

Li Kun, Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication, Peking University

Officials are in a high position, so they have the responsibility to tell the public their income and sacrifice some of their privacy. But there should be a regular method for this. Regulations should be made, and different classes of officials should have different kinds of supervision and different rights of privacy.

Also, I don't think supervision from the media should work in this way. It is better to let local supervision committees or audit

bureaus check officials' balance sheets, and then for the media to report on it. People would be more convinced by that.

Zhang, a college lecturer on media law

As an official, the more power you have, the less privacy you should have. It is fair. And this program is not a violation of the officials' privacy. However, now China does not have a specific regulation on "right of privacy" in its civil law, and does not have a specific law for news and media. The law lags behind the reality and therefore influences the ability of the media to fulfill its right of supervision of public affairs.

Mamun Mamurul Hossain, editor of Bangladesh, a Dhaka-based journal

The media in Bangladesh is quite free, so you can read almost everything about the government officials in newspapers. We are quite proud of this. The problem here is that the ruling parties and opposition attack each other so violently, and some journalists or newspapers or TV programs become so partisan that sometimes the readers find it hard to tell if the allegations are true or just rumors. I do appreciate the freedom of speech of the media in our country, but look forward to a more accountable description of those officials, instead of misleading reports. Of course I believe the accountable stories and programs will help a lot to improve the transparency in Bangladesh.

Maria Michalczyk-Lillich, associate professor of Art and Design at Southwest Missouri State University, US

I think public officials should be as transparent as possible about their income and "gifts." If the official is elected to office by the people, and paid their salary by taxes from the people, then the people should know exactly how their money is being spent. Being a "public" official means knowingly taking a position where one's income and benefits will be scrutinized by the public. Those working for the public and being paid with public funds must expect that those they serve will expect to know how they are performing their duties, and if their income and benefits are in step with the majority of the population they represent.

Woman Bites Microchip

Average salaries for women in the IT industry are five to fifteen percent higher than in other industries. However, most of them work overtime.

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Female staff members of China Information World
Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

By Wu Chen

Chinese women are making rapid progress in the IT industry, according to a survey released at The First Annual Meeting of Chinese Women in the IT Industry held in Beijing by China Information World and China Women on June 24.

Li Ying, publisher of *China Information World*, issued the survey, which covered 13 industries that use information technology, such as energy, transportation and finance. The survey also covered 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions.

It studied the profession, the position and status of Chinese women in the IT industry and showed that despite women's insecurities about their careers, their prospects are good. The findings will come as a surprise to those who regard women's role in such a hi-tech area as peripheral, said Xu Dongying, deputy publisher of *China Information World*, to *Beijing Youth Daily* on Monday.

Professional evaluation

Average salaries for women in the IT industry are five to fifteen percent higher than in other industries. However, most of them work overtime. The number of those who work for eight hours every day (31.48%) is far less than those who work for eight to twelve hours (63.89%). So the salary per hour is actually lower than in other industries by 5% to 10%. Salaries in the IT industry were broadly the same for men and women.

The survey also found that salaries in foreign corporations are 6% to 20% higher than domestic ones. Foreign companies also offer their employees welfare benefits, such as more vacation, and more comprehensive training.

Female graduates appear to be enthusiastic about careers in public relations, marketing and sales, especially marketing. Over 30% of the women in the survey worked in marketing. Chief Information Officer (CIO) is another popular position for women. "That is because women are good at communication," Zeng Yuhui, Sales Manager of Pingao Technical Development Co., Ltd, told *Beijing Today*. Ju Li, General Manager of the China Business Unit of IBM Personal Computer Division (PCD) also said that women's better communication skills gave them an advantage in administrative positions.

However, the industries surveyed indicated employment saturation in sales and marketing, causing a downwards trend in the salary level of these positions.

Most of the women in the IT industry said they were satisfied with their current jobs.

Professional development

The survey found 34% of women between 28 to 35 years old reach middle or high level positions. This indicates that promotion opportunities for women have increased faster than for men. And the number in foreign and joint-venture corporations is 40%, which shows women have more room for advancement in foreign or joint-venture corporations.

80% of women think that gender itself is no longer a disadvantage restricting their promotion and development potential, as knowledge and experience are now the decisive qualities needed for career advancement. Xu Dongying said that in her opinion the biggest obstacles for women's professional development were their inherent weakness of character, such as being more emotional, and the habit of depending on others.

Meanwhile, the survey identified skills in coordination, cooperation and insight as important areas of competitive ability

for women.

32.41% of women said that after the age of 35 they would consider opening their own companies, so long as they had enough capital and experience. The fields they were most enthusiastic about were related to the IT industry, such as software and public relations.

55% of women said their top priority in looking for a new job was career development prospects; less than 22% said salary was the most important thing.

"We engage in job-hopping not for money, but for better development opportunities. I think it is the same for those women who want to open their own companies," said Zeng Yuhui, who had just transferred from a state-owned IT corporation as a common employee to a private IT company as a sales manager.

39.81% of the women surveyed admitted being concerned about the risks involved in opening their own companies. Support from their families and capital status were the decisive elements in whether or not they would go ahead with it.

24.08% said they had no clear ideas about their future, and said that at some point they would turn their focus towards their families.

Spare time

Most women said they found great difficulty in balancing their job and family; only 16% said they didn't find it too much of a problem. The survey found women with jobs in the IT industry spent less time with their families than those in other industries; in fact the number was about 70% of the average time women in other industries spent with their families. The higher the position, the less the time spent, especially for women who had opened their own companies.

The survey also found that IT women neglect their housework. Women in IT spent about 38% of the time spent on domestic chores by women in other industries. Meanwhile, only 16.82% said they felt they should put more energy into their family life than their jobs.

There are more single women in IT than other industries, especially in the foreign and joint-venture corporations. They remain single longer than those in other industries by about four to seven years, and two to six years longer than those in domestic IT corporations. Zeng Yuhui said, "My former boyfriend was against me choosing a job in IT. It meant I had less time to spend with him."

However, most of the successful women in IT said family was an important part of their lives, and they realized the need to deal with family relations better. Wang Xiaoyan, Senior Vice President and CIO of Legend Corporation and Lu Zhaoxia, Senior Vice President and Director of Operations of Neusoft Corporation, both said to *Beijing Youth Daily* that when they had some success, their husbands and children were the first ones who celebrated with them, and even though they had little time for housework, they had good relations with their family members.

When it comes to vacations, 65% of the women in IT prefer to travel, both in China and abroad. Learning new skills and knowledge has also become a fashionable way of using spare time for these women. In terms of consumption, IT women are upwardly mobile: cars are the number one item on their shopping wish lists.

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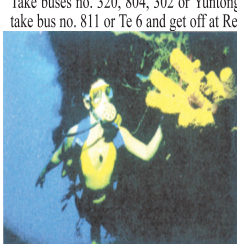


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Fight the Power

Henan farmer exposes widespread tax collection abuses



Wang Xingfu with a villager

Wang Xingfu is on the way to visit villagers. (right)

Photos by Meng Liang

By Jiang Yongzhu

Wang Xingfu, a farmer from Yiyang County, Henan Province, has already achieved more than many thought he would, but he's not satisfied. He became so enraged at what he saw as extortion of excessive taxes by local authorities that he compiled a report including numerous examples of it and sent it in to the regional authorities.

Though the authorities eventually acknowledged his findings, Wang is still waiting for those re-

sponsible to be punished. "I won't hesitate to stand up to them again if it's necessary," said Wang when *Beijing Today* interviewed him this week.

From November of 2002 to August 2003, Wang conducted an investigation into the often violent tax collecting practices in Yiyang County. During this 10-month investigation, he visited over 1,000 families in the area. Based on the information he collected, Wang wrote a 60-page report in which he recorded how the villagers were

physically attacked, illegally detained and even robbed by the local tax collectors.

Made up his mind

Though Wang, 51, is an ordinary farmer who received relatively basic education, he's always spent his spare time reading. Studying government documents and policies that relate to farmers has been a particular interest over the years, so he knows his rights. In 2002, an incident that befell a fellow villager spurred him to put his knowl-

edge to practical use.

On November 12, 2002, the authorities of Gaoxiang Village went to villager Ye Yanzhi's home to collect tax. When Ye inquired what he was being taxed on, the authorities became annoyed and refused to explain. The next day, after Ye had already handed in the tax, he was arrested by the local tax collector group and was then detained by the local police for 16 hours. He was released after his family paid a fine of 200 yuan for his relative lack of cooperation demanded.

"I was very indignant at the authorities' behavior," recalled Wang. "They regarded justice and the law as nothing, but what really helped me make up my mind to do something was the reaction of the villagers. They thought it was legal for the authorities to scold them and beat them and do whatever they want. They kept silent about what they suffered because they didn't realize they were also citizens whose rights are protected by law."

As it happens, the State Administration of Taxation released an announcement on August 8, 2002, in which the basic disciplines for tax collectors were highlighted. According to this document, tax collectors should respect tax payer's rights, explain every detail of taxation to farmers and decrease tax for those peasants who had difficulties paying.

Wang did not see such principles being put into practice so he determined to bring justice to the village and force tax collectors to observe the national regulations. Knowing the limits of his own power, Wang decided to collect evidence of tax collecting abuses and report them to the provincial government and even the central government.

Ten months of hard work

Wang's family were not enthusiastic about his plan, but he started his investigation in November 2002 nonetheless. "No one could understand me at that time. I knew the cost of the investigation, and I was afraid the local authorities would attack me. But once I decide to do something, I never give up," Wang said.

At first, villagers refused to speak to him since they were afraid the authorities would seek revenge. Some of them also thought it was useless to talk to Wang as he was just an ordinary farmer.

However, Wang persisted and gradually succeeded in getting people to talk about what had happened to them. The interviewees also provided Wang with more sources of information which widened his investigation. He visited 13 of the 19 villages in Yiyang County collecting information.

Meanwhile, Wang's share of the farm work was shouldered by his family members. All the money earned by his son who was a cook was used to support his investigation. Wang sometimes had to walk for miles, even in the snow to continue his investigation. But despite all the difficulties, stories such as that of Liu Gongchao infuriated him so much he kept at it.

Liu Gongchao lived in Suyang village. After a whole year of hard work, he had made enough only for six bags of wheat and 12 bags of corn, partly due to the dry weather. On December 12, 2002, he tried to sell the corn in the fair to get some money to pay his taxes. Just before he returned home, his family was

robbed by the tax collectors. According to Wang's report, tax collectors broke the door of his home with axes. They pushed aside his daughter and his wife who tried to stop them, and began to carry things out of his home, including his bicycle and sewing machine. His son, who tried to protect his mother and sister, was arrested and detained. Liu had to borrow money to buy cigarettes for the tax collectors and pay a fine of 400 yuan before his son was finally released.

In the 203 incidents recorded by Wang in which villagers were attacked and robbed, 75 villagers were seriously hurt. The village authorities charged them for refusing to pay tax. But according to Wang's report, none of these villagers had actually violated the national tax regulations. Some of them delayed paying tax because they were asked pay more tax than they should. Wang used Ye Xinchao's family as an example. Ye cultivated an area of 800 square meters, but the local authorities taxed him for 1600 square meters. And there were also villagers who really had difficulties in paying tax. "The village authorities failed to explain the policies to people. They didn't calculate and collect the tax according to the national regulations," Wang concluded in his report.

"I am still not satisfied with the result"

Wang started to send his report to national and provincial government authorities in the early 2003. In March of 2003, a response came from the Agricultural Supervision Office of Henan Province. They sent an investigation group to Yiyang County and their investigation confirmed Wang's findings. Wang's report thus aroused the attention of the State Administration of Taxation. They urged the local government to "solve the problem thoroughly".

Wang Xinfu is now considered a hero among the villagers. The media, including *Banyuetan*, a magazine owned by Xinhua News Agency, told his story to the public. He is now employed as a supervisor by the local government. The village authorities have even begun to return some of the "fines" they collected.

"Frankly, I am not satisfied with this result," Wang said. He believes the village authorities should be punished according to the national regulations on decreasing the burden on farmers. In China, 70% of the population lives in rural areas. These people have a heavy tax burden even though many earn less than 4,000 yuan per year. Decreasing the burden on farmers is on the government's agenda every year.

"The national policies are still not practiced here. I am ready to launch another fight against the injustice. Even though we are only farmers, we deserve equal rights," Wang insists.



By Dong Nan

"I'm not going to come back until the unfair treatment meted out to me is resolved," said Fu Zhongyi to *Beijing Today* on Wednesday. Fu used to be a real estate developer in Shaoyang city, Hunan Province. But after an argument and a mysterious death, a mob of furious relatives destroyed his house all on one mad night last December. Police were powerless to intervene at the time and Fu has been on the run ever since.

What did Fu do?

According to Fu, on the morning of last December 20, he left home for a function being held by his company, Zhongyi Real Estate Development Corporation. He found a car was blocking his way so he couldn't drive out.

He looked around for the driver of the car for half of an hour but couldn't find him. In his frustration, he kicked the light of the car.

At that moment, the owner of the car suddenly appeared. Deng Jiesheng, who Fu later discovered was the president of a local construction bureau, rushed out of the nearby Jianmin Hotel yelling "how dare you do that?", and quarreled with Fu. He mistook Fu for the boss of a nearby cloth shop and threatened to smash it up.

Fu didn't know Deng, but he seemed like someone with wealth and connections so Fu ran for it. However, something strange then happened.

After salespeople of the shop explained to Deng that Fu was not their boss, Deng stormed out of the shop angrily. Suddenly, he fell down and died several minutes later.

After Deng's relatives, who lived in Huangtang County, around 30 kilometers from Shaoyang, found out what had happened, they assumed Deng must have been murdered by Fu. They took Deng's corpse to Fu's home an hour later and shouted at Fu to come out and account for himself. This group of people numbered about 100.

"It's called 'kangshi', which means to take the victim's corpse to the murderer's home and force the murderer to come out. If he does not, relatives of the victim will damage the murderer's house. It is an an-

Fu's to Blame?



Fu Zhongyi shows a newspaper which covered his story to Beijing Today.

Photo by Li Shuzhuan

cient tradition in Shaoyang rural areas," explained Zhou Wei, vice president of the Construction Bureau of Shaohang Town to the media afterwards.

Deng's relatives waited for Fu to come out for about 10 minutes. After that, they began to smash the place up.

A big crowd of people gathered to watch. Some tried to persuade Deng's relatives to stop, but without success.

Fu was so scared that he dared not to come home to face Deng's family. He and his wife, Yang Lifang, called police for help. Later some 10 policemen arrived, but they decided they could not stop Deng's family so they just stood by and watched.

"After our men reached the scene, those people had begun destroying things and our manpower was not enough at that time. We were afraid that if we tried to stop them, the conflict would be intensified," Zhao Hechen, a local police official explained to *Xinmin Weekly*.

Three days later on December 23, 100 policemen arrived to stop Deng's family doing further damage to Fu's house. Deng's corpse was still there. Fu had fled the scene and the furniture and the appliances in his 1,000-square-meter house had all been destroyed. Most of the documents of Fu's corporation had been burnt, all his wines had been drunk or taken away, and most walls and windows were painted with slogans such as "Fu Zhongyi is a murderer" and "an eye for an eye" by Deng's family.

Fu told *Beijing Today* that

his direct losses were around 400,000 to 500,000 yuan. And since many documents of his corporation were destroyed, the indirect losses were hard to evaluate.

On the lam

After that, Fu was afraid of revenge from Deng's family so he left for Changsha, Hunan.

"At that time, Fu's absence really caused difficulties for the police," said Long Weiping, president of the local police to *Xinmin Weekly*.

"The police said that they did not have enough manpower on December 20. However, Deng's people stayed in my house for four full days; why did it take so long to stop them?" Fu said to *Beijing Today*. "I left since I did not trust them anymore."

"Even if my husband had murdered Deng, the police should protect his legal property. Why didn't they do that?" said Yang Lifang to *Xinmin Weekly*.

Fu asked the police to show him the result of the autopsy, but they refused. "Without the result of the autopsy, I could not come back. If I came back and was arrested, things would be even worse for me," Fu said.

Fu expressed surprise that some witnesses told police there had been some physical contact between Fu and Deng.

"I never touched him; where did these witnesses come from?" Fu asked.

However, Shaoyang police arrested Fu in Changsha eventually on February 19, 2004, on the basis merely of "damaging

common property", a reference to the broken light on Deng Jiesheng's car which belonged to the construction bureau of Shaohang Town.

On March 4, the police told Fu that the autopsy result found that Deng had died of a heart attack. It appeared the attack was triggered by "rage and trauma", but as there was no evidence of a physical struggle between Fu and Deng, Fu was released.

However, Fu was still suspicious about the result. "The police admitted that I was not the culprit for Deng's death. So why haven't they arrested those witnesses who lied and those who damaged my house?"

Fu says he suspects it was some of his business competitors in Shaoyang who lied to the police and who stirred up Deng's family.

In April 2004, to avoid revenge, Fu left Shaoyang again and went to Beijing. "I felt so hopeless at that time," he said.

We're gonna get Fu

This June, Deng's family sued Fu and demanded compensation of 680,000 yuan. However, Deng's family withdrew the case on June 8.

"We will sue him again later anyway, and you newspapers need not report that much on the issue," said Deng Shengli, Deng Jiesheng's brother to *Beijing News* on June 9.

"Fu should trust us and come back to solve the problems," said Long Weiping to *Xinmin Weekly*. "The case is still under investigation. We want to find out why witnesses lied and find those who damaged Fu's house. And though Fu did not commit a crime, he has civil responsibilities and should come back and talk about compensation to Deng's family with them."

But Fu refuses to trust the local police anymore.

"All I want is a written certificate saying I am not the culprit for Deng's death and not a criminal. But they refused to give it to me, and said an oral announcement was enough," he said.

"The only thing I can do now is to tell the media the unfair things that happened to me," he told *Beijing Today*. "And I have to wait and see what happens next."



Battling for Battered Women

“It takes a long time to develop awareness of gender rights at home,” says Chen. “But I believe gender awareness will be increasingly accepted by legislators, police officers, prosecutors, judges, and the rest of the legal system. It will finally be incorporated into our laws and practices.”

By Jessie Jiang

“What we are dealing with is a group of lonely, embittered, desperate women,” says Chen Min, a lawyer whose name is now well-known in China because of the domestic violence lawsuits she’s taken on. “When these battered women are driven to deadly crimes after long-term suffering of violence, it is unfair to treat them just as ordinary criminals.”

Chen, an amiable, soft-voiced lady in her early 40s, is China’s first lawyer to adopt and promote the idea of “Battered Women’s Syndrome” (BWS). According to this theory, women who have been repeatedly abused by their spouses may be forced to desperate measures such as murder if they feel their life is in danger. In many places including Canada and over 20 states in the US, female criminals diagnosed with BWS often have their sentences commuted and some are even completely exonerated.

“Such an idea is still quite new in China. Although many people agree that these women are pitiable, they cannot find any legal basis to back their sympathy,” says Chen.

Herald of reforms

The theory of BWS was first defined in 1977 by American psychotherapist Dr. Lenore Walker, who said repeated abuse can make women feel murder of their abusers is the only way to survive.

In Canada, the US, Australia, the UK and many other parts of Europe, female suspects can raise the issue of self-defense if diagnosed with BWS, and if the jury decides the motive for murder was fear for her or her family members’ lives, a short-term imprisonment or even acquittal is possible.

However, since Chen first introduced the theory and practice of BWS in China in 2000, she has come across much difficulty in putting the idea into practice.

In 2003, a peasant woman in Hebei Province, Liu Shuanxia, poisoned her husband after 12 years of acute domestic violence. After Liu was arrested, some 400 families in her village jointly signed a petition and gave it to the local authorities pleading for mercy on behalf of Liu, saying that the dead victim “was a real demon and was responsible for his own murder.” Even Liu’s father-in-law and brother-in-law testified at the local court saying if she had not poisoned her husband,

she would have been battered to death by him sooner or later.

Despite Chen Min’s diagnosis of Liu as a typical case of BWS, Liu was eventually sentenced to 12 years imprisonment. The court was apologetic, but unmoved. “BWS as expert evidence seems to have a scientific basis and is reasonable, but it is not proper for this court at the basic level to admit it, given the absence of authoritative legal interpretation,” said the verdict.

Not discouraged, Chen continued her work. When she visited Liu at the local detention center, she found a pale woman, tormented by her own sense of guilt. “She could not justify her own behavior,” Chen observed. “When women are abused at home, our society does not provide effective protection, but when they are forced to fight back, our law which earlier refused to intervene, immediately punishes them. This is just not fair and we must help these women.”

Chen intensified her efforts to change the status quo. Apart from working hard on disseminating the idea of BWS, both by preaching the idea within the legal community and publishing articles in the media, she has also provided pro bono legal aid for ten battered women who killed their abusers. The attention these cases gained heightened social awareness of Chen’s cause.

Meanwhile, she has also helped set up the “Abused Women’s Support Network” under the China Law Society, the first of its kind in China, with funding from the Danish International Development Agency. The network, launched in 2003, aims to help battered women with both gender and legal education, so that group members are able to try and deal with family violence and share their experiences with others.

Up to now, three such groups have been established, with one in Yanqing District and two in Beijing Municipality, where battered women feel understood, respected and supported. “One of the most gratifying things is that some of the members are already offering to help others in need of assistance, for instance through shelter. This helps prevent spousal abuse from escalating, which might otherwise end up in serious physical harm or even murder, either of the abuser or the victim,” Chen says.

“Both legal and practical reforms are necessary to render gradual changes. And I will

spare no efforts to make them possible,” insists Chen.

Lifting the lid

Chen’s interest in domestic violence was quite accidental. In Canada, in 1997, she was a student in the Graduate Program with the Faculty of Law at the University of British Columbia (UBC). Following a discussion with her classmates about gender equality in China, she went to the Asian Library on the campus and began researching the subject. To her disappointment, she soon realized how much room for improvement there was. This steered her towards studying equality in legal protection between men and women, especially the protection of women suffering domestic violence.

Brought up in a close family with a warm-hearted mother and a good-tempered father, Chen had no idea about domestic violence before her studies at UBC. This exposure to the ugly side of human nature caught her by surprise. “I felt so sick at the brutality of the cases I read about that I sometimes had to run out of the room to get some fresh air,” she says.

“Now, after so many years, I have learned to distance myself psychologically from what I hear, but I still feel there’s a need for those of us in direct contact with battered women to get assistance from psychologists ourselves in order to lessen the pressure. Otherwise, we can easily fall prey to depression and then we can hardly help anyone else.”

Gender rights

“No one can deny that women’s rights have made tremendous progress since the foundation of New China. However, what we have right now is mostly formal equality. We need to do more to get substantial equality in place. In regard to domestic violence, we need a more proactive prevention and intervention scheme, as well as greater public awareness of its nature and seriousness, in order to contribute to the protection of women’s human rights in general,” says Chen.

According to a recent survey by the All China Women’s Federation, domestic violence exists in 29.7% of Chinese families. Among rural women who are battered by their husbands, 50% turn to mediation by relatives or officials, but 33% choose to “fight back”. Only 7% seek help from the police. Statistics also show that among women who are



in prison for violent offenses, about 50% are former victims of spousal abuse. Chen feels these statistics could be radically altered by early intervention.

The issues of domestic violence and gender rights in general pose many questions for long-established conventions in China, including traditional views about the separation of public and private life. In terms of gender equality, Chen believes that differences in strength, psychology and social experience between men and women cannot be overlooked in law-making and in enforcement. In one article that she published, she argued that women are mostly at a disadvantage when it comes to domestic violence, and when they are abused there is basically no chance for them to defend themselves. In this sense, BWS should be taken into serious consideration by responsible juries. This proposal attracted considerable attention

among China’s legal circles.

Chen believes gender blindness still exists in many of China’s other current laws and practices. For example, the law currently places the burden of proof on the victim of domestic violence, making it very difficult for battered women to win their case. Since the violence takes place within the family home, most victims lose their cases simply because their husbands can deny causing their injuries.

In terms of established practices and mentality, despite the strong principles against domestic violence in such statutes as the revised Marriage Law, public interference and mediation in domestic violence in China is often ineffective and even counter-effective in practice. “Even the wisest judge cannot solve a domestic dispute properly.” This age-old proverb is still widely believed in today’s China. Improper mediation in family disputes involving domestic violence also

contributes to its escalation, according to Chen.

Chen published an article in Xinhua News last November, which was then picked up by the media around China, including *People’s Daily*. In it, Chen analyzed that the intention of “preserving the family” usually only serves to reestablish the victim and the perpetrator’s relationship. Therefore, although mediation of domestic abuse cases may aid the justice system by disposing of troublesome cases, it may not be helpful to protect victims from further violence.

“It takes a long time to develop awareness of gender rights at home,” says Chen. “But I believe gender awareness will be increasingly accepted by legislators, police officers, prosecutors, judges, and the rest of the legal system. It will finally be incorporated into our laws and practices,” says Chen, with a smile of hope in her eyes. “A sparkle of fire may inflame the whole grassland,” she says.



Chen trains legal students.

Photos by Bao Wei

World Heritage Lists

34 New Sites



A fifth century tomb at the Koguryo Kingdom site

Suzhou, the garden city in East China's Jiangsu Province, played host to the 28th Session of the World Heritage Committee from June 28 to July 7.

During the course of the meeting, 34 new sites were added to the World Heritage List, bringing the total to 788. From China, one new site, the Koguryo Kingdom, and two extensions have been added to the World Heritage List.



Imperial Palace in Shenyang



Zhaoling, tomb of Emperor Taizong of the Qing Dynasty.

By Peng Juan

The meeting attracted around 500 representatives and observers from 100 countries. Some 200 journalists also flocked to the scenic city of Suzhou to cover the UNESCO event, which is held annually in one of the 21 member states of the World Heritage Committee.

This is the first time China has hosted such a high-ranking international meeting of the World Heritage Committee.

The UNESCO officials and representatives examined 48 nominations; 33 cultural sites and eight natural sites proposed by 36 countries, and seven extensions of previously listed sites in five countries. They also discussed new global strategies concerning the protection of world heritages during the 10-day meeting. Twenty-seven themes were addressed, such as the credibility of the list, conservation of sites, heritages in danger, the Cairns Decision, awareness raising and international cooperation.

In the meantime, the organizing body also held the Exhibition of World Heritage Properties in the Asia-Pacific Region and World Heritage China Forum, accompanied by a series of other related activities.

After four days of heated debate, Zhang Xinseng, chairman of the session, unveiled the 34 new heritage sites on July 2, including five natural sites and 29 cultural sites. The World Heritage Committee also accepted six of the seven applications for extensions of previously listed sites.

The List of World Heritage Properties was updated to 788 sites of "outstanding universal value" in 133 countries, including 611 cultural and 154 natural sites and 23 mixed sites.

Unanimous approval

From China, one new site, the Koguryo Kingdom, and two extensions have been added to the World Heritage List.

The capital cities and tombs of the ancient Koguryo Kingdom, dating back nearly 2,300 years, won unani-

mous approval from the World Heritage Committee. Some of the royal tombs feature vivid wall paintings offering a unique testimony to the daily life of the aristocracy in that period. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the advisory body of the World Heritage Committee, said in the report that the Koguryo burial customs had an important influence on other cultures in the region, including those in Japan.

The two extensions approved are the Imperial Palace in Shenyang and three Imperial Tombs, also in Shenyang, capital of China's northeast Liaoning Province. The Shenyang Imperial Palace, built in 1625 with an area of 46,000 square meters, was included as an extension to the Forbidden City of the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911) added to the list in 1987; it is the only imperial construction kept intact besides the Forbidden City in China. The three Imperial Tombs, dedicated to the first and second emperors and two empresses of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) as well as their ancestors, add almost 340 hectares of protected area to the Imperial Tombs of the Ming and Qing Dynasties listed in 2000.

The approval of the Koguryo site brings China's number of world heritage sites to 30 from the previous 29, ranking third in the world, behind Spain and Italy.

Protection remains top priority

The key issue that emerged during the session was the necessity to strike a balance between development and heritage protection.

The committee reviewed the List of World Heritage in Danger, removing three sites, including Cambodia's Angkor, and adding one, the Cologne Cathedral, bringing the total of endangered sites to 33. Discussions were held on 121 sites, as to whether they were being damaged or endangered as a result of improper management.

The List of World Heritage in Danger includes sites such as the Minaret and the Archeological Remains of Jam

(Afghanistan) and Timbuktu (Mali). Bam Cultural Landscape of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was newly listed as a cultural site at this session, and at the same time placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The committee is trying to develop and adopt, together with the government of Iran, a program for corrective measures, to restore the site's value in order to enable its removal from the "in danger" list as quickly as possible.

Of the 121 sites questioned, five are in China, including Beijing's Forbidden City, for the negative influence of modern development, the classical gardens in Suzhou for the disputed location of Suzhou Museum, the Potala Palace in Lhasa of Tibet for an unqualified preservation report, Mount Wudang in Hubei for poor fire-prevention measures that failed to prevent one of the buildings from being destroyed in a fire last year, and the Three Parallel Rivers of Yunnan for the proposed construction of power stations in the region.

Discussion and questioning are equivalent to an oral warning. If no measures are taken to protect a site, it may be added to the endangered list or removed from the World Heritage List.

"All in all, the sites must make clear the purpose of their applying for World Heritage listing. Otherwise, the success of being inscribed in the list will only do more harm to the cultural and natural properties, since they emphasize development at the cost of protection," said Xie Chensheng, an expert in cultural relics protection.

Even so, experts said the balance between protection and development is a tricky one to maintain. An official, who attended last year's session in Paris, said almost 80 percent of the 102 sites that were questioned at last year's meeting faced the same problem this year. "Improper planning of urban construction and development, as well as uncontrolled tourism will have a bad influence on heritage protection. We are now trying our best to reduce the bad influence as much as possible."

Facing a dilemma

Besides the problem of imbalance between heritage protection and development, the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO also faces another dilemma.

The Cairns Decision, adopted by World Heritage Committee two years ago, limits the number of new heritage nominations submitted by each member state to two a year.

But the World Heritage List has been gaining a higher profile in recent years. More and more applications are filed with UNESCO for inclusion of sites on the list every year, as awareness grows of the fame and benefits this may bring. "We have to ensure that the World Heritage List is representative and represents all cultures; it shouldn't be focused on any particular culture," said a UNESCO official.

Some delegates say this actually means a better leverage for the UN body to push for better protection along with modest use of the world's best gifts of nature and the finest legacy of our ancestors.

But how UNESCO can make better use of this leverage remains a contentious issue. On the one hand, there has been a rapid increase in new applications that are not qualified; on the other hand, the Cairns Decision puts countries with few or no sites on the list at a disadvantage.

"Being inscribed on the World Heritage List is just one side of the story. More importantly, the ultimate goal is to properly protect the heritages that belong to the whole of mankind," said Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO director-general, who is calling for a representative, balanced and credible heritage list. As Matsuura pointed out, of the 178 state parties to the convention, 49 still do not have any sites on the heritage list.

At a closed-door meeting, the 28th Session the World Heritage Committee approved the first World Heritage Site of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Along with North Korea, Andorra, Iceland and Togo also made their first appearance on the World Heritage List at this session.

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Why Does It Hurt So Bad

Why Does It Hurt So Bad

By Yu Shanshan

Fresh out of rehab, six-time Grammy award winner Whitney Houston is to perform in Beijing on July 25 at the National Olympic Center. The concert will be the second of her China tour, which starts in Shanghai on the 22nd and winds up in Hong Kong on the 28th.

Houston is best known in China for her hit of a decade ago, *I Will Always Love You*, from the soundtrack to *Bodyguard*, but audiences will have the opportunity to hear every single one of the 40-year-old singer's classics.

Cashing in on a China tour seems to be a trend for stars whose international popularity is on the wane – David Copperfield, Kenny G and Richard Clayderman come to mind. And following Houston, there are rumors of visits by Britney Spears and Backstreet Boys this autumn, which in this context can only be good news.

Following the disappointing two shows in Shanghai last November by Mariah Carey, Beijingers might well consider a ticket to this concert a risky investment, but for those who would rank singing along to the *Greatest Love of All* as more fun than karaoke, it may be worth a shot.

Ticket: 1600 (VIP); 1200, 1000, 800 (seats in the arena); 580, 480, 380, 280, 180 (seats on the stand)
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WORLDWIDE

Marlon Brando Dies at 80

Marlon Brando, who revolutionized Hollywood's image of a leading man playing street-tough, emotionally raw characters in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *On the Waterfront* and then revived his career a generation later as the definitive Mafia don in *The Godfather*, died last week at the age of 80.

The reclusive Brando died of lung failure at 6:30 pm Thursday at UCLA Medical Center, according to hospital spokeswoman Roxanne Moster.

"Marlon would hate the idea of people chiming in to give their comments about his death. All I'll say is that it makes me sad he's gone," *The Godfather* director Francis Ford Coppola said Friday.

Brando's attorney, David J. Seeley, said funeral arrangements would be private. (AP)

Miss World Finally Signs Contract

Miss World, Rosanna Davison of Ireland, has finally signed her contract with pageant organizers halfway through her reign – and denied that she's been playing hardball.

The 19-year-old issued a statement through her lawyer's office that blamed any delays on the Miss World organizers. She also rejected Irish press reports that she was refusing to do engagements as the pageant wanted.

The legal statement said Davison – the daughter of 1980s pop crooner Chris de Burgh – signed a contract in mid-June, three months after Miss World organizers presented it. It offered no detail on the contract terms or issues in dispute.

"Prior to this, Miss Davison had already carried out numerous engagements as Miss World in the United States, Canada, China, Sri Lanka, continental Europe, England and Ireland, helping to raise millions of dollars for children's charities, promoting the aims of the Miss World organization and bringing much positive global attention to her native land," the statement said. (AP)

Fantasia Knocks Usher from No. 1

American Idol third-season winner Fantasia entered the Billboard Hot 100 at No. 1 with *I Believe*, interrupting Usher's

19-week stranglehold on the top spot.

Since the Hot 100 was revamped in December 1998 to include all radio formats, no title reached No. 1 with a radio audience as low as that of *Believe*. Fellow *Idol* alumnus Clay Aiken had the previous low-water mark

when *This Is the Night* debuted at No. 1 the week of June 28, 2003, with 9 million impressions.

Only *Idol* singles have topped the 100,000 mark at retail since 2002 began.

While *Believe* falls shy of debut weeks by fellow finalists Aiken, Ruben Studdard and Kelly Clarkson, Fantasia's total still impresses, considering the evaporation of the retail singles market.

(Reuters)

Versace's Niece Partly Inherits Company

Gianni Versace's niece Allegra Beck turned 18 on Wednesday and took possession of the inheritance from her late uncle – half the fashion house.

The 50 percent stake in the company had been held in trust

since Versace was gunned down at his Miami Beach mansion in 1997, when Allegra was 11. She is the daughter of Versace's sister Donatella, the company's designer, and former model Paul Beck.

While the fashion house has remained under family control, it is laden with debt. Before his death, Gianni Versace had planned to list the company on the stock market, but that was placed on hold until Allegra's 18th birthday.

Allegra and her brother Daniel often attended their uncle's fashion shows, and he reportedly willed his art collection, including works by Picasso, to Daniel, Donatella's younger child. But after Gianni Versace's death, the children were kept from the public spotlight.

Allegra has told friends she wants to study acting in New York. Unlike the children of families such as Missoni, Ferragamo and Biagiotti, she has so far shown no interest in following the family's fashion footsteps. (AP)

What's on DVD

By Wang Yumeng

Spider-Man 2

When producer Avi Arad announced that there was going to be a *Spider-Man* sequel, no one was surprised. Two years have passed, and the mild-mannered Peter Parker faces new challenges as he struggles with "the gift and the curse," desperately trying to balance his dual identities as the web-slinging superhero Spider-Man and his life as a college student.

Helboy

Entertaining, stylish and smart sci-fi fantasy horror action flick based on a popular cult indie comic book of the same name, Ron Perlman was definitely born for the role as the title hero. The creatures, special effects and make-up are quite spectacular, anyone who enjoys comic books, sci-fi, fantasy and horror, or is simply and in need of a bit of fun should enjoy this movie.

The Notebook

In the love-conquers-all category of damp eyed girlie films, *The Notebook* has been split into two – the old and the young – which appears to be a storytelling contrivance that adds another layer of sentimentality and treats senile dementia like a bedside lamp, to be switched on and off at the script-writer's convenience.



Rock Review

Kunfoo's Impulsion

By Wang Yao

Newcomer hip-hop band Kunfoo released their first album recently. Titled *Impulsion*, on the NewBees label, the album is a vivid demonstration of young Chinese hip-hoppers' art.

The band consists of MC Yang Fan, DJ Chongzi ("Bug"), and Fugui (aka Xiao Yangon) on keyboards, all three of whom grew up in Tianjin. Although they are all in their early 20s, these three musicians are no greenhorns – Fugui received a classical music education, studying the clarinet before switching to keyboards. Yang Fan is a gifted performer who has played in bands since junior middle school, while DJ Chongzi is an adept scratch artist.

Their songs address the confusion and angst of youth, generally with a positive, encouraging slant, typified in such songs as *Sunset* and *Impulsion*. These two songs focus on the confusions of the young generation, and at the same time, encourage people to



overcome, rather than dodge or be discouraged by adversity. In *Sunset*, they happily sing, "It is easier to lose than get, but what does it matter, as long as the sun will still rise tomorrow?"

The album also features a few before and after remixes, such as the track *2001*, which is turned inside out by techno-master Tian Peng. Tian's treatment makes the track even more dynamic, emphasizing the passionate lyrics as though they were about yesterday. *Just Rap It* is about the desire to make hip-hop music, its infectious enthusiasm echoing the slogan printed on the cover of the album – "Our hip-hop is better than melody!"

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加裕華裝飾

By Jiang Yongzhu
For over 3,000 years, chopsticks have been the dining utensils of choice in China and much of East Asia, during which they have developed aesthetic attributes to augment their practical side.

The Mingyuefang store in Tongli Studio sells many different sets of elegant, unusual chopsticks imported from Vietnam and a range of other intriguing items from China's neighbor to the south.

Most of the chopsticks for sale are made of sandalwood and polished or stained to enhance the wood's natural beauty. "Japanese like decorating chopsticks with paintings, while Vietnamese prefer natural materials," noted storeowner Cao Xiaomei, who was deeply impressed by Vietnam's delicate arts while working in the country.

The sticks comes in sets, most of which include 10 pairs and are priced from 100 yuan to 600 yuan. One elegantly simple set is made of deep black sandalwood, topped with pieces of deep blue, iridescent abalone shell. They are sure to add minimalist style and class to the dining table and fetch 398 yuan.

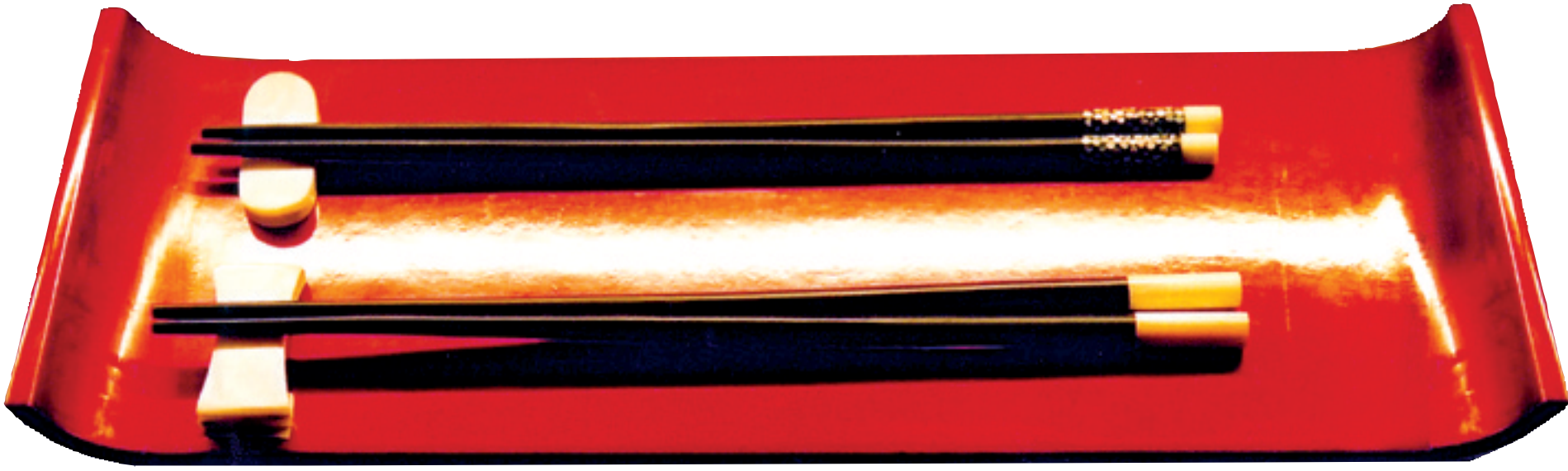
Dragons are powerful traditional symbols in Vietnam, and make an appearance in another set of chopsticks made of yellow sandalwood topped with carvings of flying dragons in ox bone (415 yuan). The sticks are a bit shorter than normal, perhaps to lead diners' eyes to the exquisite carvings.

Other imaginative sets of pick-up sticks bear little figurines of sleeping cats or swimming fish (both priced at 180 yuan).

When buying high-end chopsticks, there is no reason not to indulge further and get matching accessories such as carved wooden rests, wooden boxes and plates for serving and woven silk placemats – all provided in many varieties at this distinct shop.

Where: Room 320, Tongli Studios, Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang **Open:** 9 am - 11 pm **Tel:** 13311576406

Vietnamese Style Sticks



Bags o' Fun

By Wang Yao

Xidan is girly bag central thanks to the Mickey Shops, specialists in handbags, purses and schoolbags bearing playful images of Mickey and Minnie mouse in 77th Street plaza.

Among the stores' playful items is a fashionable bag crafted of pink and orange shiny PVC rubber that carries a Minnie logo and a price tag of 125 yuan. The bright bag is equally suitable for teenage girls cruising on the weekends and young office employees looking to add some color to their day.



A plastic Minnie appears on a more subdued handbag (137 yuan) made of sailcloth and printed with flowers.

The stores also stock ranges of fine wallets, most made from embossed Italian leather with quality metal accessories. Prices run from 78 yuan to 238 yuan.

Probably the most mini items in the shops are little key rings bearing the Mickey and Minnie logos and priced to move at 19 yuan each.

Where: No. 2, No. 3, level B1, No. 1 level B3, 77th Street mall, Xidan Culture Plaza, Xicheng **Open:** 10 am - 10 pm **Tel:** 6606 0800

Mickey leather bag, 298 yuan



Totally Tees

By Wang Yue

Store No. 33 in the level B2 of the 77th Street mall is run by a young man named Liu Xin, who while studying abroad came across many stores specializing in "design-it-yourself" t-shirts and decided to bring the concept back to China.

It actually is not a completely new idea in this city, but Liu's store does stand out, if only for its great variety, with over 500 prints for tacking on t-shirts available and more coming in every month. Customers can also bring in their own artistic doodles or other materials to be scanned and then silk-screened onto shirts, or pluck favorite designs from an Internet site using the store's computer.

Once the perfect design has been found, it is just a matter of choosing a type of tee – there are 100 percent cotton shirts and others with a hint of lycra in the mix, all available in a rainbow of colors.

These highly personalized shirts cost 89 yuan each, or 149 yuan a pair, and take about two hours for the shop to actually produce once the design is set. Liu promised that any T-shirt that does not hold up to the wash can be replaced for free.

Starting this fall, shoppers into personalization thing will have more choices, as Liu is preparing to offer his innovative DIY treatment to sweaters, bags and other goods.

Where: B2-C-33, 77th Street mall, Xidan Culture Plaza, Xicheng **Open:** 10 am - 10 pm **Tel:** 13801027746

Lovers' t-shirts, 240 yuan

Slivers of Silver



Photos by Li Shuzhuan

By Jiang Yongzhu

Of the several jewelry stores in the Tongli Studio complex, Silver Counter is not the cheapest, but it more than justifies its prices with a line of original, well-crafted and fun pieces hued from quality sterling.

Each item is a one-off, ensuring complete originality. "Our designer's major goal is to combine elements of East and West, tradition and fashion together," said store owner Lu Yanping.

A good illustration of that ethos is a pure silver necklace (200 yuan) that carries an elegant round pendant carefully carved with the Chinese character *shou*, an ancient symbol of longevity. In keeping with Chinese tradition,

the character is surrounded by a ring of bats, believed to be beneficent creatures since the Chinese word for bat sounds just like that for happiness (*fu*).

Another impressive necklace is forged from jade, silver and rosewood, all materials traditionally associated with wealth and prosperity in this country. The deep green jade stands in the center of a silver pendant surrounded by a ring of rosewood, all hanging from a simple, elegant necklace of one piece of curving silver with figures of dragon heads at each end. The piece forgoes flash for dignity and is priced at 650 yuan.

Most of the counter space is occupied by jewelry for women, but Silver Counter does not forget the fellas and stocks a

line of items just for men. A fine choice for a well-dressed gentleman is a set of silver cuff links (450 yuan) carved with images of *qinglongbaihu*, an animal from Chinese myth that is half white tiger, half dragon, and believed capable of warding off evil.

Everything in the Silver Counter's cases is made at the store's own workshop. The store can also make pieces, whether single items or sets, to order – normally delivering the finished products in around one week. Its craftsmen also provide top-notch repair and cleaning services for silver jewelry.

Where: Room 208, Tongli Studio, Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang **Open:** 11 am - 9 pm **Tel:** 6417 7782

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Russia: More than You Might Expect

This Tuesday, Yuri A. Metelev, the education and culture counselor of the Russian Embassy in Beijing, came to Beijing Today's Study Abroad Salon for an open chat with readers about studying in Russia.

Mr. Metelev, also a representative of the Russian Center for International Cultural and Scientific Cooperation, was joined by Russian Embassy attache Sergey Lebedev. The two answered more than 30 questions with abundant patience and a light sense of humor.

The Study Abroad Salon is intended to be a platform for communication for people interested in studying abroad with education representatives from various destination countries.

You are welcome to participate in our chat at: <http://bjtoday.ynet.com>. You can also forward your questions to the host Ayi at: ayi@ynet.com.

Education Industry in Russia

(俄罗斯教育产业现状)

Can you recommend the best ten universities in Russia? And the best faculties and subjects?

— host

Every year, Russia's Ministry of Education ranks domestic universities. The best universities for this year are:

1. Moscow State University;
2. St. Petersburg State University;
3. Moscow Physics and Engineering Institute;
4. Russia State Peoples Friendship University;
5. Siberian State Medical University;
6. Volga State Engineering and Pedagogical Academy;
7. Urals State Juridical Academy;
8. Russia State University of Oil and Gas;
9. Nizhnegorodskiy State linguistic Academy;
10. Saratov State Law Academy;

I cannot list the best faculties and subjects, as there are too many choices. But the most popular among foreign students are engineering, computer science, medicine and fine arts.

What is the overall status of Russia's education system?

— polarbear

There are 1041 higher education institutions in Russia today, 610 of which are state and 431 private. Of the private institutions, 280 hold state accreditation and licenses.

Forty-four percent of freshmen in the state institutions have to pay for the education they are receiving.

How many Chinese students are studying in Russia?

— private investigator

Today, more than 12,600 Chinese students are studying in Russia. This has exceeded the number that studied in the Soviet Union in the 1950's.

Aside from that, we have another 90,000 foreign students from over 150 countries studying in Russia.



Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

Important Notice

Our next guest is Ms. Francoise Lafon, director of EduFrance, the only French government agency for the promotion of higher education in China.

She will provide us a real picture of living and studying in France. Don't miss it!

Time: 2-3 pm, July 12

Venue: <http://bjtoday.ynet.com>

You can register on the salon site to directly pose questions, or forward your questions to the host, Ayi, at ayi@ynet.com.

重要启示

下周一, “留学聊天室”将邀请EduFrance China (法国教育国际协作署中国办事处) 负责人兰枫女士, 现场解答大家关于留学法国的种种问题。

EduFrance是法国负责在全球推广高等教育产业的唯一官方机构。EduFrance China与法国驻华使馆教育处紧密合作, 并在北京和上海设有办公室。

时间: 7月12日(星期一)下午2:00-3:00

地址: <http://bjtoday.ynet.com>

你也可以先登陆“留学聊天室”, 将你的问题留在那里, 或者, 发送到主持人阿义信箱: ayi@ynet.com, 由他帮你提问。

Choosing and Applying
(学校选择和申请)

Are there any criterion, such as language proficiency, financial support and visa quotas, that determine who can and can't apply to a Russian university?

— AD

There are no restrictions facing people who want to study in Russia.

You can contact universities directly to get necessary papers (application

forms, etc.), guarantee payment and get a formal enrollment notice. Then you can come to our embassy to apply for the visa. After you buy an airplane ticket, contact the university so that they will pick you up at the airport.

What academic certificate should I obtain before applying to study in Russia?

— little voice

You should have a certificate or diploma of high or middle school education, acceptance by an education institution in Russia and a health certificate. You don't need to take any special tests.

In their first year, all foreign students study Russian language. At the end of that, they have to pass a Russian test and then they can start education in their fields.

Subjects and Tuition
(课程和学费)

My major is information system management. Is that a popular field in Russia? How much would it cost for me to study in Russia for one year?

— 有殊川

Everything connected with management, computer technology or information is very popular and in great demand in Russia. Almost every university has such a faculty.

Tuition fees vary between \$1,000 per year and \$6,000. It depends on many factors, such as how old the university is and its traditional teaching quality. But the major factor is whether it is located in a big city or a rural town.

Living expenses also depend on location. In Moscow and St. Peters-

burg, figure on \$250 to \$300 per month (no clubs and pubs!). In rural towns, the figure is more likely to be around \$100.

Is it expensive to study at Moscow State University? Is it easy to find a part-time job in Russia?

— Peterovsky

Moscow State University should be the most expensive. The reason is its popularity. Tuition fees range from \$3,000 to \$6,000.

If a student studies very hard, he or she doesn't have time for part-time job.

Medical Care and Safety
(医疗保健和人生安全)

Chinese students have been attacked in Moscow. Has your government taken any measures to ensure their safety?

— old_fan

We doubt that there are any serious security problems in Russia. The situation in Moscow and St. Petersburg is similar to other big cities – do not find yourself in the wrong place at the wrong time.

However, after some incidents the authorities implemented new regulations and took serious actions to guard foreign citizens.

Local internal affairs offices have developed special patrol routes near the universities and youth gathering spots. University authorities also hire private security guards to guarantee students are safe and sound within the university campus.

If students do what they are supposed to - studying, not getting into illegal business or stuff - they should not have anything to worry about.

Edited by Zhang Nan

Ask Ayi:

Q: I majored in automation and electrical systems and want to pursue my research through a doctoral degree in Germany. What language is spoken in such classes and are there scholarships applicable?

— Lucy8051@sohu.com

A: Usually, the language of doctoral courses depends on the tutor – some will be good at English, some will speak only German, so try talking to a tutor first.

German universities do not charge any tuition fees, therefore they offer no scholarships. However, if you need financial support for research or other reasons, you can apply to your university for assistance.

Two universities strong in such technical and scientific fields are Technische Universität Berlin and RWTH Aachen University.

Q: I studied art design in China and want to continue studies in Denmark. Should I learn Danish first? Also, please give me some background about art design courses and living conditions in Denmark.

— Congcong123@163.com

A: Art design schools in Denmark are mostly targeted at local students and are taught in Danish. They do not offer any academic degrees or certificates. So, if you want to take classes in English, you'd be better off enrolling in the art design department of a comprehensive university.

Another option would be to first go through some language training. If you've passed a test in Danish from a university, you should be able to study in a professional art college.

Q: Some joint programs by Chinese and overseas universities require students to study in China for several months before going abroad. They emphasize that the master degrees provided here are not different than those granted directly by the foreign universities. My question is: are such degrees recognized in China?

— Tracy1234

A: You'd better check the list of approved exchange programs on the website of the Ministry of Education at: www.jsj.edu.cn. It is useful for evaluating the value and legitimacy of a joint degree program.

Q: I am studying international finance and applying to continue my studies at the National University of Singapore with a master's in financial engineering or economics. Which subject would lead to a better career?

— Britney gao

A: The two majors are different, so it's impossible to say which is better for your future. If you are good at mathematics, you can take the financial engineering program, which requires lots of use of mathematical models and instruments. Economics programs are more practical, focusing on economic analysis and forecasting.

The "Study Abroad" page is intended to help people interested in heading overseas for education.

You can forward any questions, problems or comments to the host, Ayi, at: ayi@ynet.com.

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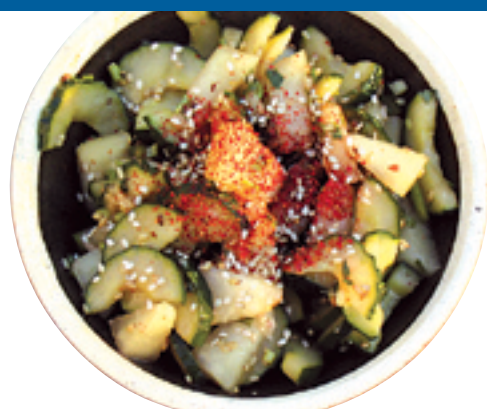
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By Joel Kirkhart

Among the sweetest treats in summer's bounty are luscious melons of all kinds, now hovering around peak ripeness at local markets.

The melon world is broken into two factions – watermelons and muskmelons, a catch-all term for the other members of the family, which come in many shapes and sizes, from big, oblong hami melons to squat papayas and globular honeydews.



Summer melon salad – easy, cooling and delicious

Mmmmelons!

There are as many secret methods for picking melons as there are picky shoppers, but the general rule of thumb for picking a good fruit (excluding papaya) is to choose a melon that is heavy for its size, slightly fragrant and a bit soft on its blossom end.

Melons do not continue to ripen after being picked (again with the exception of papayas), so they can be kept in the open air until they are cut open, after which they need to be refrigerated. At the same time, all melons are extra refreshing when served cold, mostly a function of their flesh being made of over 90 percent water. Not only delicious, these fruit are fat free and good sources of vitamins K and C, and orange-fleshed varieties add a potent dose of beta cerotene.

Enjoying a ripe melon can be as simple as cutting one open, scooping out the seeds and soft insides, slicing it and digging in. To add a little more complexity, top a melon slice with a dash of fresh ground black pepper for a natural pairing of spice and sweet.

A little fancier is a match of contrasting textures and sweet and savory flavors served at many local Western restaurants – chunks of fresh melon topped with slices of parma ham, prosciutto or other premium cured meats.

These simple fruit can also hold up to far more complicated treatments, adding distinct flavor and texture to soups, salads, desserts and even refreshing cocktails (see recipes at right).

Some melons are available year round, but never are they riper, juicier or more satisfying than in the middle of summer – so get out there and have a melon ball.

Melons on the market:



Smooth-skinned variety of zhenzhumi

Zhenzhumi – These very sweet melons have white skins criss-crossed with dark lines and relatively firm slightly yellowish white flesh. A related variety has smooth skin with crisp pale white flesh similar to the honeydew. Crisp and flavorful, these melons can do it all.

Recipe: Melon margaritas

This unusual drink is based on an outstanding idea – freezing melons. After a few hours in the freezer, melon chunks become crunchy, mellow-flavored cubes that can neatly replace ice in favorite frozen summer drinks like the margarita.

4 cups frozen cubed zhenzhumi or other firm, sweet melon
3/4 cup white tequila
1/3 cup fresh lime juice
2 1/2 tablespoons sugar

Place all ingredients in blender or food processor and pulse until smooth. Serve in chilled glasses. (For authenticity, coat rims of glasses with salt)
Makes four servings.



Yilishabai gua — “Elizabeth” melons

Yilishabai gua – For some reason called “Elizabeth” melons in Chinese, these are the most prevalent muskmelons on the market. The sweetest varieties of these yellow-skinned, white-fleshed fruit come from Beijing's own Shunyi District.

Huanghemi – This cousin of the yilishabai gua, mostly grown in Inner Mongolia, is easy to distinguish with its

larger size, deeper yellow hue and generally crisper flesh. They are equally as sweet, but have a subtly different flavor.

Recipe: Summer melon salad

In this easy to make, appetizing salad, the acidity of the dressing is neatly matched by the sweetness of the melon chunks, making it perfect for a summer picnic or as part of a light meal.

1 tablespoon rice vinegar
1 tablespoon ginger, peeled and minced
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 teaspoons light soy sauce
1 1/2 teaspoons sugar
1 teaspoon sesame oil
1/4 teaspoon dried red pepper flakes
1/8 cup vegetables oil
2 long cucumbers, halved lengthwise, seeded and sliced into thin semi-circles (about 2 cups)
Half yilishabai gua (or similar melon), cut into 1-cm cubes (about 2 cups)
2 scallions, minced
Handful of cilantro, washed and minced (optional)
1 tablespoon sesame seeds, toasted lightly then cooled

Mix vinegar, ginger, garlic, sugar, sesame oil, red pepper flakes and vegetable oil in a bowl and whisk together or shake vigorously in a jar to combine well.

Put cucumber slices, melon cubes, scallion and cilantro (if using) in a mid-size serving bowl. Pour in the well-mixed dressing and toss to coat thoroughly. Top with a sprinkling of sesame seeds.
Makes four servings.

Hamigua – Xinjiang is famed for its juicy, round melons, and none are better known than the oblong Hami melon. They have striated skin and creamy orange flesh, making them about as close to a canteloupe as can be found in this country. A classic for breakfast, hamis can get pretty big and are very sweet.

Jixingyu – Basically smaller versions of hamigua, these fruit have all the flavor and sweetness but are easier to carry.

Recipe: Melon in coconut milk

Good for any kind of melon, this easy recipe produces a delicious dessert with a distinctly Southeast Asian flavor thanks to the pairing of rich coconut milk cut by fresh lime juice.

1 can unsweetened coconut milk, stirred
3 tablespoons sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons lime juice

1 hami melon (about 2 kilo), chilled

Mix coconut milk, sugar and lime juice in a small metal bowl and stir until sugar is dissolved. Chill mixture. Halve melon and discard seeds. Scoop into balls or use knife to cut melon into slices, peel and then cut into cubes or chunks. Divide melon among eight serving dishes and top with cold coconut milk sauce. Serve immediately.
Makes eight servings.

Mugua – Though a member of the family, the exotic papaya has some differences from its melon brethren. Papayas continue to ripen after harvest and spoil somewhat easily. A good fruit should be firm, but yield to gentle palm pressure, and have unblemished skin. One indicator of ripeness is color – papayas hued halfway between yellow and orange are just about ready to eat.

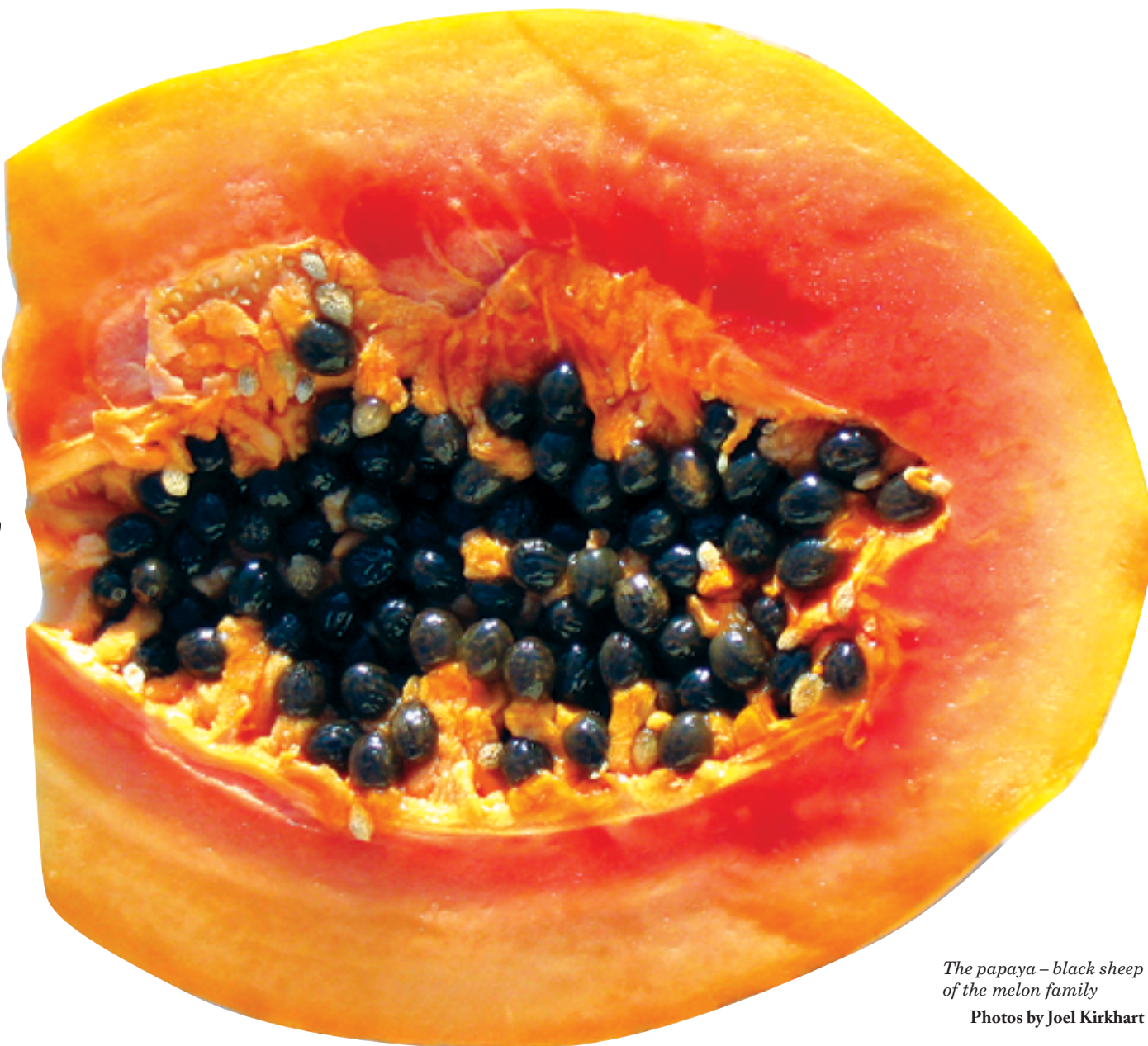
The ripe fruit's creamy flesh and distinct, sweet flavor makes it delicious on its own or in dishes and sauces, like fresh papaya salsa, an addictive topping to plain grilled fish or shrimp. The sweetness of the fruit can also be upped a couple notches to take it into divine dessert territory.

Recipe: Poached papaya in cinnamon syrup

This balanced treat, which gets a zesty zing from doses of cinnamon and lime juice, is a typical after-dinner treat of Mexico.

2 cups water
1 cup sugar
3 papayas, 500 g each, halved, seeded, peeled and cut into 1-cm wide wedges
3 tablespoons lime juice
6 strips lime peel
1 cinnamon stick

Bring water and sugar to boil in a heavy saucepan over medium-high heat, stirring until sugar dissolves. Keep boiling until syrup thickens slightly, about six minutes. Add papaya wedges, lime juice and peel and cinnamon stick to syrup. Reduce heat and simmer until papayas just tender, about eight minutes. Use slotted spoon to transfer papayas to a bowl. Boil remaining syrup until reduced to about one cup, another six minutes. Pour syrup over papaya. Chill desert well before serving, at least two hours and up to one day. Serve on its own, or topped with whipped cream or even a dollop of sour cream for contrast. Makes six servings.



The papaya – black sheep of the melon family

Photos by Joel Kirkhart

Siesta Central

By Sarah Bai

It may score higher points for style than food, but Beijing needs more places like Alameda, a new Brazilian restaurant off Sanlitun bar street. It has a comfortable, cosmopolitan vibe, eclectic menu and killer cocktails, making it a prime place for relaxing afternoons of fine drinks and conversation.



Big, Brazilian-style cuts of beef and more at Alameda

A lot of credit goes to the warm and sophisticated yet unpretentious design, which uses big windows and a glass ceiling to shower the simply decorated room in natural light.

The food is not strictly Brazilian but more pan-Western fusion, with new menus printed every day based on the chef's whims and what is freshest in the market. Lunch and dinner mostly come in three-course set meals, with a la carte items available evenings.

This past Sunday, the appetizer list included such selections as creamy cauliflower soup, a medallion of mignon and a couple of intriguing salads. The attractively-presented soup had a mild flavor, allowing the taste of cauliflower to come through, but it begged for more zest, or at least a little more salt. Also OK but short of memorable was a salad of artichoke hearts, broccoli and shaved parmesan cheese on a bed of lettuce with a meek dressing.

One definite winner from the diverse entree list was prawns with mango salsa. The sizeable shellfish were cooked simply over high heat in the shell to seal in their natural juices, and a plate of eight, accompanied by the crisp, tangy fruit salsa, made for a delicious, filling main course.

The wine risotto with pumpkin and parmesan shavings came as a healthy mound of well cooked yellow rice, mildly seasoned to let the flavor of tiny pumpkin chunks shine. For something more distinctly Brazilian, check out Alameda on Saturdays, when the kitchen cooks up loads of *feijoada*, a classic Brazilian stew of black beans and meat.

The wine list is well done, offering a decent if short selection at very competitive prices. Arguably more attractive are the cocktails, from coconutty coladas to fabulous takes on the classic Brazilian cocktail *caipirinha*, made by smashing limes and sugar together and topping them with ice and *cachaca* (a white, rum-like spirit). The drink has caught on around town, but nowhere does it better than Alameda, whether in classic lemon form or in strawberry and passion fruit varieties.

Service is very friendly, but the kitchen is surprisingly slow – avoid impatience and get the most out of Alameda's vibe by going prepared for a long, relaxing weekend siesta or a pleurably leisurely dinner with friends.

Where: Nali (Ole) shopping area, east off Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang **Open:** 10:30 am - 11 pm, closed Sunday evenings and Monday lunch **Average cost:** 130 yuan per person and up **Tel:** 6417 8084



Jixingyu

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An employee who just settled down in Beijing needs to find a one-bedroom apartment near a subway station. Separate toilet and air-conditioning preferred. Expected price: 800 yuan per month. Sharing an apartment is acceptable. Contact: itisyang@sina.com

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Sofa, leather, yellow color, 90% new, 2 meters in length, 1,000 yuan or \$125. Dressing table, red-orange color, 90% new, 1.5 meters in length, 1,000 yuan or \$125. Dressing chair, red-orange color, 90% new, 200 yuan or \$25. Dining table, antique Chinese

style, brown-red color, 10,000 yuan or \$1,250. Vacuum cleaner, can be used in dry and wet conditions, 90% new, 1,000 yuan or \$125. Contact: Claire, 13552209059, 8559 1924, or xiaodong95777@yahoo.ca

Situations vacant and wanted

Australian professional couple with university degrees are looking for employment. Husband has a BA in Business Management and Marketing, with extensive experience in construction and engineering. Wife has a Dip. Comm Serv. & Community Development, a TESOL cert. and Cert. of First Aid. Previous experience teaching in China and overseas. Both have excellent written and oral communication skills, work well independently or as part of a team. Call Dave or Janet on: 13717521225 or email to janabram@hotmail.com

Beijing Riverside Co. Ltd provide translation services to multi-national IT & Telecom companies. With the expanding of business, we are inviting qualified part-time translators to join us. Basic requirements are:

1. English level reaches 8 degree;
 2. Rich industrial background and knowledge;
 3. More than 3 years translation experience;
 4. Great sense of responsibility.
- Contact: riversideymj@vip.sina.com, Tel:8842 2357

A four star international chain ho-

tel is looking for a sales executive with following criteria: preferably with working experience in an international hotel; reasonably good English, both oral and written; positive attitude and self motivated; like challenges; a team player. Interested candidates please send your resume to marygoh@163bj.com

Chen Feng, a 22-year old girl, major in English and Law, would like to find a job. Also learning Japanese and will graduate in 2005 from Foreign Language College of China University of Political Science and Law. Contact: chenfeng6101@yahoo.com.cn, Tel: 8974 4939

English & Chinese Tutor! Experienced English lecturer in Chinese university, Canadian licensed teacher, many years experience of living and studying overseas, provides one-on-one English/Chinese conversational instruction. Targeted clients: English as a Foreign Language learners and Chinese as a Foreign Language learners. Contact: Ms. Zhao, 6485 6783

A four star international hotel is looking for an executive floor manager. He or she will be self-motivated, with a strong sense of responsibility, decent communication skills in English and working experience in a four or five star hotel. Interested

candidates, please send your resume to hrm@novotelxinjiaobj.com or call 6513 3366 ext. 1739

Highly experienced corporate business English trainer available! Well spoken with BBC English voice, and with considerable experience of teaching professional Chinese adults from a wide range of professions. An accomplished former British university tutor and businessman, he is able to teach all English business communication skills including letter writing, business reports, managing telephone calls, customer service, cross cultural understanding, etc. Corporate clients and private individuals taught. Tuition and times will be by agreement. Contact: bestenglish@msn.com

English language tutorials! Do you think in Chinese, and then find that you cannot express the same thoughts clearly in English words? You can change your future today, and switch from being a confusing Chinglish speaker to being a proficient English speaker. Friendly professional help is just an email away, Email: yourenglishtutor@hotmail.com

Personals

A man from London who is warm and caring wishes to meet a similar Chinese lady for a serious and deep friendship. He does not smoke or drink alcohol. "What I am looking for is a

person with a beautiful inside!" Should the right person contact me I am prepared to make a visit to China for a meeting. swires88@hotmail.com

Luo, a 32-year-old artist who graduated from the Art Department of the Central Art College with a masters degree hopes to serve as private tutor or art adviser on Chinese calligraphy and painting for groups or individuals. Contact: 13911302788, or email: luogongran@163.com

Language exchange

Gavin, 23-year-old Chinese, would like to give mandarin lessons. Contact: kai_chen@mail.china.com

Ting, female, English B.A., writer. She wants to make friends with a native English speaker. She is good at playing badminton and tennis. "I'm also happy to be a tour guide free of charge." Email: we_ting@sohu.com

Vivian, a sales and marketing professional, wants to get to know native English speakers to learn English. Email: vivian.jin@cpparkviewbj.com

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Service

Bicycle Rental Service

Beijing's first bicycle rental chain-company opened last Saturday. Now you can rent bicycles at 13 stations along subway line 1 and line 2, and return the bicycle to any of the 13 stations.

Where: Subway line 1 or line 2 **Price:** 2 yuan per hour, 5 yuan for 8 hours, 10 yuan per day **Tel:** 8650 8855



Activities

Porcelain Appraisal

Ms. Ye Peilan, Palace Museum researcher and member of the Archeology Institute of China, will give a talk on porcelain appraisal. You're welcome to bring your collection; a specialist will tell you what it's worth.

When: 2-4:30pm **Where:** Function room, 2/F, Kempinski Hotel **Admission:** 180 yuan (after 10% off for opening ceremony, July only), coffee break, English translation included **Tel:** 8451 8767

Hutong Cycle Tour

Check out several interesting old hutongs and listen to the guide describing the ancient life, customs, history and architecture. Then head to the Houhai area to see the lake.

When: July 11 **Meet:** 4 pm at the entrance of Beijing International hotel. **Cost:** 100 yuan (130 yuan if you provide your own bike) **Tel:** 6559 3462



Weekend Tour to Inner Mongolia Grasslands

Travel with Cycle China to Inner Mongolia. Tourists can cycle on the most beautiful grassland near Hohhot, swim in a lake and do some horse-riding. The tour also includes a day trip to the Gobi desert. Tour around the the biggest city in Inner Mongolia by bike, check out some highlights, and get to know the real life of the locals.

When: Friday night - Monday morning **Cost:** 1,280 yuan per person (including all transpor-

Exhibitions

Summer Conscious Art Exhibition

An exhibition of works by Dujie, Chenfeng, Liuxuezhi, and six other artists. Everyone has vivid memories of summer. This summer, the Creation Art Gallery will accompany you down memory lane by presenting the Summer Conscious Exhibition, to celebrate and to grasp the spirit of summer that we all remember.

Where: Creation Art Gallery, north end of Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang **When:** July 10-25, 10 am - 7 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8561 7570



String Emblem

A solo exhibition of Park young-Geun, a contemporary artist from Korea. Full of modern art language and profound thinking about modern society, Park young-Geun uses his lifelike and sharp paintstrokes to describe human emotion and modern civilization. These works not only show the thought tracks of the artist, but also bring us the joy of art and the thinking of philosophy.

Where: Soka Art Center, Room B-101, Sky&Sea Business Plaza, No.107, Dongsi Beidajie, Dong Cheng **When:** July 9-25, 10 am - 9 pm (closed on Mondays) **Admission:** free **Tel:** 8401 2377

House of Flying Daggers (Shimian Maifu)

Directed by Zhang Yimou and starring Takashi Kaneshivo, Andy Lau, Zhang Ziyi and Song Dandan. This movie is set in the Tang Dynasty and is based on intrigues to kill the emperor.

Where: UME International Cinplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Kexueyuan Nanlu, Shuangyushu, Haidian **When:** from June 15 **Tel:** 8211 2851 **Admission:** 90 yuan



Jams

Lucky draw from Thailand

Attention anyone who visited Thailand during Jan 1 to October 31 this year! The Tourist Authority of Thailand is offering a lucky draw for tourists from China who collected free postcards in international airports and asked the local hotels, restaurants or gift stores to stamp their seal on the complete set of postcards (6 pieces) while traveling in Bangkok, Phuket, Chiang Mai, Pattaya and Hua Hin. Mail the postcards to Beijing Office of the Tourist Authority of Thailand before Oct 31. The winner gets to use two Audi 1.8T autos for five years. Six round trip tickets and thirty digital cameras are also up for grabs. The draw will take place in November 2004, Shanghai. **Tel:** 8518 3526

Performance

Flamboyant dancing

Directed by Ganlu and Liujiang, music by Bian Liunian and Wang Yougui, starring 35 Brazilian performers. This show is to celebrate the 30th anniversary of China and Brazil establishing diplomatic relations.

Where: Beijing Exhibition Center, 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie **When:** July 9-11, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 80-680 yuan **Tel:** 6835 4457

TV and Radio Highlights

HBO	
9 Friday	
The Foreigner	9 pm
10 Saturday	
Analyze That	9 pm
11 Sunday	
Star Trek Nemesis	9:55 pm
12 Monday	
Cabin Pressure	9 pm
13 Tuesday	
Casino	10:50 pm
14 Wednesday	
The Nutty Professor	9 pm
15 Thursday	
Blow	12:40 am
CCTV-9	
Monday - Friday	
Around China	6:30 am
Cultural Express	8:30 am
Nature and Science /	
Chinese Civilization	11:30 am
Cultural Express	2:30 pm
Nature and Science /	
Chinese Civilization	5:30 pm
Dialogue	7:30 pm
News Updates /	
Asia Today	8 pm
Sports Scene	11:15 pm
Saturday	
Travelogue	9:30 am
Center Stage	11:30 am
Sunday	
Sports Weekend	10 am
Documentary	10:30 am
This Week	12:30 am
China Radio International 91.5 FM	
Monday - Friday	
Easy FM Afternoon	2-7 pm
Fun in Beijing	5-5:30 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Saturday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Euro Hit 40	12:05-1 pm
Music Sans Frontiers	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Sunday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Jazz Beat	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bitodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2531
By Zhang Jianzhong

Movies

La Casa Delle Fenestre Che Ridono (The House with Laughing Windows)

Directed by Pupi Avati, star-

tation, bike, horse-riding, lunch, supper and breakfast, plus all entrance fees and accommodation.) **Tel:** 13911886524

Calligraphy and Painting on Paper Fans

Both a practical accessory and a decorative gift, Chinese fans are an essential part of any summer. CCC (Chinese Culture Club) calligraphers Paul Wang and Zhang Yuan will talk about fan culture, and create calligraphy and your names on fans.

When: July 14, 7:30-9 pm **Where:** Chinese Culture Club (Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) **Admission:** 40 yuan (member: 30 yuan) **Tel:** 8462 2081

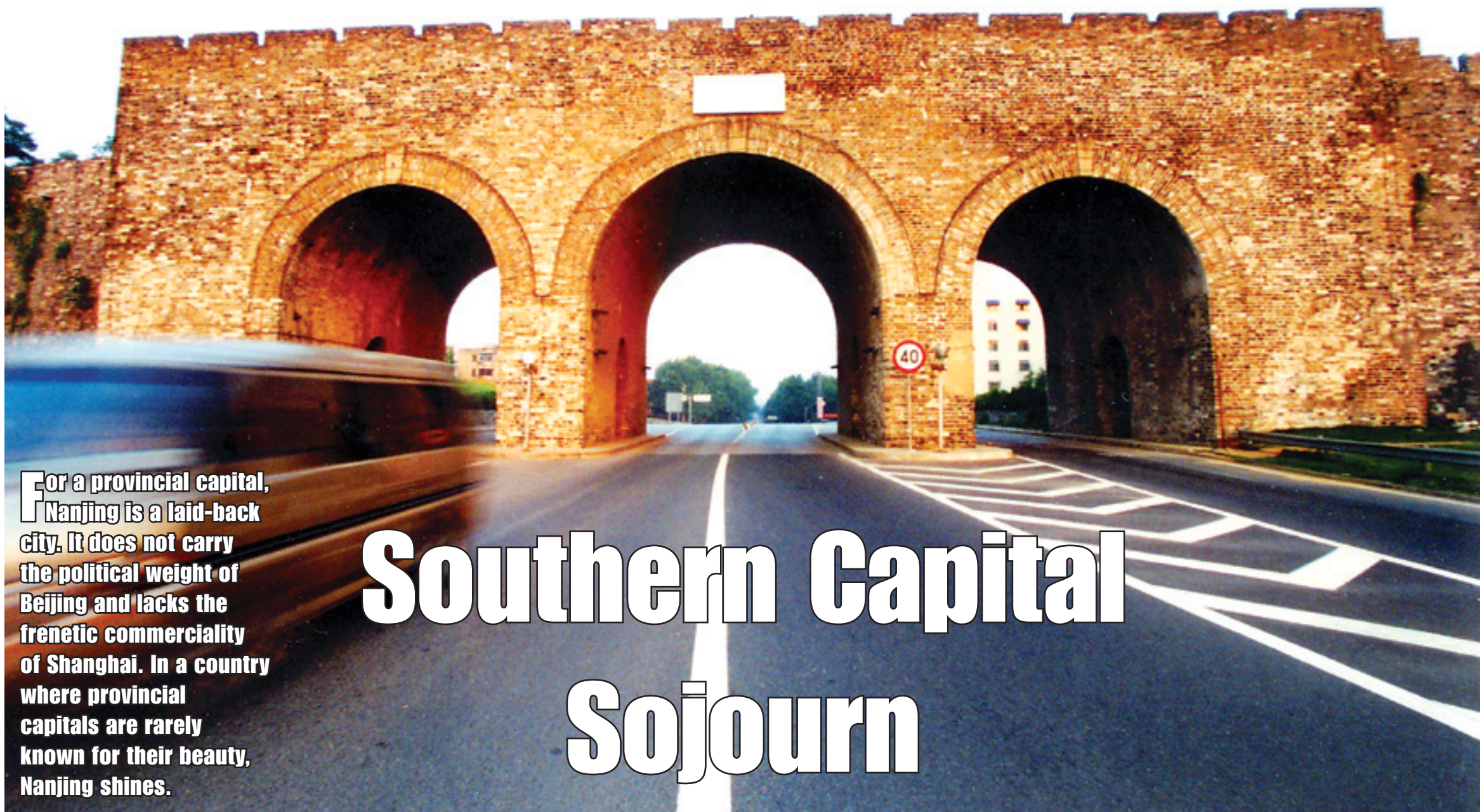
La Casa Delle Fenestre Che Ridono (The House with Laughing Windows)

Directed by Pupi Avati, star-

ring Lino Capolicchio, Francesca Marciano, Gianni Cavina. Regarded as one of the great Italian horror movies of the 1970s, the film is set in a remote Italian village where an art expert is asked to restore a decaying fresco in a local church.

The fresco depicts the slaughter of St. Sebastian in graphic fashion, showing several large knives imbedded in his chest and stomach. Rumors suggest the artist worked from real-life models. As the restoration expert works on the fresco, he becomes obsessed with finding the truth behind the fresco's creation, leading him on a spiraling path toward his own destruction. Italian with English subtitles.

Where: Italian Embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun **When:** 7 pm, July 10, **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2187



For a provincial capital, Nanjing is a laid-back city. It does not carry the political weight of Beijing and lacks the frenetic commerciality of Shanghai. In a country where provincial capitals are rarely known for their beauty, Nanjing shines.

Southern Capital Sojourn

The Ming city wall in Nanjing has more than 2,000 blockhouses and 24 city gates.

Photo by Photocome

By Wang Fang

The construction work that is changing the face of China seems to have had less impact in Nanjing, it remains a city of broad boulevards and shady trees. This is just as well, considering the oppressive summer heat that grips the city, which, along with Wuhan and Chongqing, is known as one of the "three furnaces of the Yangtze." Nanjing enjoyed its golden years under the Ming Dynasty, and there are numerous reminders of the period for visitors to stumble upon.

While tourists tend to focus on the scenic spots around the city's eastern outskirts, such as the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang's Tomb, Meihua Mountain and Linggu Temple, there are other quieter, less frequented places of interest such as Meiling Palace and Zixia (Purple Clouds) Lake.

Gan Xi's Residence

Gan Xi's Residence is a massive mansion at the intersection of Shengzhou Lu and Zhongshan Nanlu. It was built during the Jiaqing period of the Qing Dynasty by Gan Xi's father, Gan Fu. It is often said that the largest palace in China is the Forbidden City in Beijing, with nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety nine and a half rooms; the largest bureaucratic residence is the Confucius Family Mansion in Qufu, Shandong Province, with nine hundred and ninety nine and a half rooms; and the largest civil residence is Gan Xi's Residence, with ninety nine and a half rooms.



Gan Xi was a famous intellectual of the late Qing Dynasty. The pagoda-like tower where he collected his books, called Jindai Tower, was a replica of the Tianyi Tower in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province; however, it was destroyed during the Boxer Uprising. There were about 160,000 books in the library published during the Song and Yuan dynasties. The most valuable of these, the complete version of *Jin Shi Lu*, published in the Song Dynasty, is now kept at the Beijing National Library.

Part of Gan Xi's Residence, the No. 15, 17 and 19 halls, has been restored, and features the original Ming and Qing dynasty furniture.

Stone City

Nanjing is sometimes called Stone City, a reference to a section of the Ming city wall called the Stone City, also known as Ghost Face City. Once one of the most famous scenic spots in Nanjing, it has fallen into a state of disrepair, and many new buildings have been erected in the vicinity. The local government is reportedly planning to clean up the area and the Stone City Park will soon open to the public.

The Ming city wall stands next to the Qinhuai River. It has more than 2,000 blockhouses and 24 city gates, among which Zhonghua Gate in the south, Yijiang Gate in the north-west, Xuanwu Gate in the north-east and Zhongshan Gate in the east remain in a good state of repair.



Purple Mountain Observatory

This was the first observatory constructed in China. The buildings are connected with steps and plank roads. On each platform, there are balustrades designed in traditional Chinese style. The buildings blend into the mountain as an integral whole. The foundation inscriptions, kept on the left bottom corner of the building, were written by Wang Jingwei, Cai Yuanpei and Yu Youren. The decorative *pailou* (ceremonial archway) is carved with four columns and covered with glazed tiles.

St. Pauls Church

This is the first formal Christian church in Nanjing, built in 1923. It is a small-scaled building like the typical small countryside churches found in the West. The architecture of St. Paul Church is delicate with Gothic arches inside. The walls are constructed of bricks taken from the city wall. All the key sections were built with the white marble. The scriptures are carved on the internal walls with the gold foil.

Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum

Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925) is

recognized as the father of modern China. His mausoleum is on the southern slopes of Zhongshan Hill, on the eastern outskirts of the city. The site covers an area of 80,000 square meters, and is designed in the shape of a huge bell, representing the freedom of new China. The white buildings with roofs of brilliant blue tiles (the colors of the Kuomintang) are a striking contrast to the background of dark green pines.

From the large bronze statue at the base of the mausoleum, the memorial hall can be reached by way of 392 marble steps. The hall is dominated by a large seated statue of Sun Yat-sen and leads to the vault where his remains are buried under another marble statue of him in a reclining posture. The walls of the memorial hall are painted with scenes depicting the passing of the 1912 constitution. The Kuomintang ideals, 'Nationalism, Democracy and People's Livelihood' are inscribed above the burial chamber in gold on black marble.

Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang's Tomb

Zhu Yuanzhang (1328-1398) was the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) He established his capital in Nanjing (Nanjing means



Southern Capital), though it was later moved to Beijing by his son, Zhu Li. The tomb, which took 17 years to construct, is located to the west of Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum. All that remains today is the last section, which is divided into two parts: the tomb passage and the main section. On either side of the tomb passage stand stone animals and figures. In the tomb area there is a tower called Yi Cheng. Steps lead to its top where there is a carved stone with the inscription "This Hill is Ming

Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang's Tomb." Zhu Yuanzhang is buried underneath the tower. Nearby, there is a citadel enclosed by walls, inside which is a large monument erected by Zhu Yuanzhang's son Zhu Li in memory of his father's merits and virtues.

Confucius Temple and Qinhuai River

The Confucius Temple, honoring the great thinker and educator of ancient China, was built in 1034 during the Song Dynasty and expanded in the Eastern Jin Dynasty. It was seriously damaged by Japanese troops in 1937.



The whole area covers an area of about 23,600 square meters, centered on Dacheng Hall. On the south bank of the Qinhuai River is the longest screen wall in China and on the north bank is a stone balustrade. To the east is Kuixin Attic and the west, Juxin Pavilion. From Lingxin Gate to Dacheng Gate, one passes Dacheng Hall and Minde Hall. Together with the East and West Market and Gongyuan Street, the Confucius Temple is a typical example of Ming and Qing architectural style.

Since 1987, Spring Festival and Lantern Festival festivities

have centered on this area, attracting both locals and tourists. There is a several hundred meter corridor from Yong'an Shop to Kuiguang Tower. Houses featuring typical characteristics of Southern China can be seen on the south bank of the Qinhuai River.

The Qinhuai River was called Huaishui in ancient times. According to legend, Emperor Qin Shihuang, the first emperor of China, had Fangshan Mountain and its ridges cut to lead streams into the Yujiang River, hence the name. The banks of the river have been densely populated since ancient times. It was a famous trade center in the Six Dynasties, and in the Ming and Qing dynasties it grew even more prosperous. The river now is lined with restaurants and hotels and has become Nanjing's business center.

Zhongshan and Xuanwu Lake

In the center of Zongshan stands Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum. On the west side of the mausoleum, on Meihua Mountain, is Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang's Tomb, Sun Quan's Tomb (the king of Wu during the Three Kingdoms Period), Liao Zhongkai (1877-1925) and He Xiangning's (1878-1972) Tomb. On the east side are Linggu Park and Deng Yanda's (1895-1931) Tomb. On the north of Zhongshan is Xu Da's (1332-1395) Tomb, Chang Yuchun's (1330-1369) Tomb, Li Wenzhong's (1339-1384) Tomb. On the third peak of Zhongshan stands the Purple Mountain Observatory. Linggu Temple, which holds a piece of the skull

of Sangzang, a renowned monk of the Tang Dynasty, is at the foot.

Places to eat Shiwangfu (Lion King's Restaurant)

Specializing in Huaiyang Cuisine, there is a stage in the center of the restaurant on which diners are treated to nightly performances.

Where: 2 Shiziqiao, Hunan Street

Tel: (025) 83306700

Dianyage Riverfood Restaurant

Specializing in all kinds of fish found in the Yangtze River.

Where: Intersection of

Jiangdong Lu and

Hanzhongmen Lu

Tel: (025) 86473877

Lulu Vegetarian Restaurant

Vegetarian food and snacks Chinese style.

Where: 248 Taiping Nanlu

Tel: (025) 84527177

Local specialties Chaotian Palace

Here the traveler can find anything from antique, jade, calligraphy to books and old tickets.

Yun Jin (Cloud Brocade)

Nanjing Cloud Brocade (so named for its resemblance to the rose-tinted clouds of sunset) has a history of nearly one thousand years. It is one of the three famous styles of brocade originating in China (the other two are Sichuan shu brocade and Suzhou song brocade). In 1996, there were only five big looms left and there are fewer than 50 people who know the secret of weaving the real Cloud Brocade.



Traditional Ming and Qing style architecture along the Qinhuai River

Photos by Imaginechina